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Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 64/115. It highlights arrangements in the Secretariat related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions; the operational changes that have occurred in the light of the shift in focus in the Security Council and its sanctions committees towards targeted sanctions; and recent developments concerning the activities of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.

* A/65/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 64/115, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions. The present report has been prepared in compliance with that request.

II. Measures for further improvement of the procedures and working methods of the Security Council and its sanctions committees related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

2. As noted in previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/62/206 and Corr.1, A/63/224 and A/64/225), the Chairman of the Security Council Informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions transmitted the report of the Working Group to the Security Council (see S/2006/997, annex). Several of the recommendations and best practices set out in that report related to improved sanctions design and monitoring; however, the report did not contain any recommendations that explicitly referred to ways to assist third States affected by the unintended impact of sanctions. By its resolution 1732 (2006), the Council decided that the Working Group had fulfilled its mandate as contained in document S/2005/841, and took note with interest of the best practices and methods set out in the report of the Working Group and requested its subsidiary bodies to take note of them as well.

3. During the period under review, and in keeping with the shift of the Security Council from comprehensive economic sanctions to targeted sanctions, there were no pre-assessment reports or ongoing assessment reports concerning the likely or actual unintended impact of sanctions on third States.

4. In the period under review, and again in keeping with the shift of the Security Council from comprehensive economic sanctions to targeted sanctions, no sanctions committees were approached by Member States with regard to special economic problems arising from the implementation of sanctions.[1]

5. In nearly every case in which the Security Council has decided that States shall freeze the assets owned or controlled by designated individuals and entities, the Council has also adopted exceptions by which States can signal to the relevant sanctions committee their intention to authorize access to frozen funds for a variety of basic and extraordinary expenses.[2] Such expenses can include tax payments, insurance premiums and public utility charges; reasonable professional fees and

[1] It may be noted here that, in a 90-day report delivered on 28 June 2010, the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) informed the Council that the Committee had responded to a written request for guidance from a Member State in connection with the disposal of arms-related materiel found on-board a vessel that was being transferred in violation of paragraph 5 of resolution 1747 (2007) (see S/PV.6344). The request was submitted owing to human resources demands being placed on that Member State's authorities in providing continuous surveillance of the arms-related materiel.

[2] See Security Council resolutions 1452 (2002), 1532 (2004), 1572 (2004), 1591 (2005), 1596 (2005), 1636 (2005), 1718 (2006), 1737 (2006), 1844 (2008) and 1907 (2009).

reimbursement of expenses associated with the provision of legal services; and fees or service charges, in accordance with national laws, for routine holding or maintenance of frozen funds, other financial assets and economic resources.

6. Furthermore, in paragraph 15 of its resolution 1737 (2006), the Security Council decided that the assets freeze imposed under the same resolution would not prevent a designated person or entity from making payment due under a contract entered into prior to the listing of such a person or entity, provided that the conditions set out in subparagraphs 15 (a) and (b) had been met, and after notification by the relevant States to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) of the intention to make or receive such payments or to authorize, where appropriate, the unfreezing of funds, other financial assets or economic resources for that purpose, 10 working days prior to such authorization.

7. Through his 90-day reports to the Security Council, prepared in accordance with paragraph 18 (h) of resolution 1737 (2006), the Chairman of the Committee informed the Council of a total of 40 notifications submitted pursuant to paragraph 15, which did not require a Committee decision, of the receipt of payment or the unfreezing of assets in connection with contracts entered into prior to the listing of certain entities.[1] Thus, the provisions contained in paragraph 15 of resolution 1737 (2006), as well as the exceptions to the assets freeze for basic and extraordinary expenses,[2] can help to mitigate economic burdens arising from the implementation of Council assets freezes.

III. Recent developments related to the role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

8. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 59/45, the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have continued to play their respective roles in the area of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions.

A. General Assembly

9. The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization met from 1 to 9 March 2010. The report of the Special Committee contains a summary of the discussions on the question of the implementation of the Charter provisions related to assistance to third States affected by sanctions (A/65/33, chap. III.A).

B. Economic and Social Council

10. Pursuant to its decision 2000/32, the Economic and Social Council decided to include, in the general segment of the agenda of its substantive session of 2010,

[1] See S/PV.5702, 5743, 5807, 5853, 5909, 5973, 6142, 6235 and 6280. The 90-day report of 9 September 2009, which is also relevant, was not delivered at a public meeting; however, the text is available on the Committee's website: http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1737.

sub-item 13 (i), entitled "Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions". No advance documentation was requested. The Council considered the matter on 21 July 2010 but took no action under that sub-item.

IV. Arrangements in the Secretariat related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

11. In accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,[4] the competent units within the Secretariat have maintained their capacity to compile and evaluate information pertaining to any special economic problems in third States arising from the application of sanctions and to evaluate any appeals to the Security Council made by such affected third States under the provisions of Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations.

12. One of the objectives of such monitoring and evaluation exercises is to develop and strengthen capacity within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to refine and improve the modalities, technical procedures and guidelines for the coordination of technical assistance to affected third States (A/64/225, para. 12). However, the shift from comprehensive economic sanctions to targeted sanctions in recent years has reduced the occurrence of unintended harm to third States: no State has appealed for the remedy and relief of economic problems arising from application of sanctions to the Security Council since June 2003.

13. As reported previously, the shift to targeted financial sanctions, focused arms embargoes and travel sanctions is designed to minimize the economic, social and humanitarian impact in targeted as well as non-targeted countries, if implemented properly. The shift also requires significant changes in the methodology used to assess the economic problems of third States affected by sanctions. This would involve detailed case-by-case assessments of targeted sanctions and the possible adverse economic, social and humanitarian impact in individual countries, both those that were targeted and those that were not. This approach is reflected, for example, in the report of the Working Group (S/2006/997, annex). The Sanctions Assessment Handbook published by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also includes elements contributing to the refinement of the methodology to develop, implement and assess the impact of targeted sanctions.[5]

14. In the absence of appeals to the Security Council under Article 50, however, little progress has been made since 2002 in applying and further developing specific methodologies to make the required impact assessments. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs will, nevertheless, continue to seek opportunities for collaborative work with other relevant parts of the Secretariat, as well as other international organizations and academic institutions, to stay abreast of similar and related methodologies for assessing the impact of sanctions in general in order to be responsive when appeals are made.

[4] See resolutions 50/51, 51/208, 52/162, 53/107, 54/107, 55/157, 56/87, 57/25, 58/80, 59/45, 60/23, 61/38, 62/69, 63/127 and 64/115.

[5] Available from www.humanitarianinfo.org/sanctions.handbook.

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Items 25 and 28 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Advancement of women

Activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, prepared pursuant to Assembly resolution 39/125.

* A/65/150.

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Summary

The present report provides a review and update of progress of the programme and activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) as framed in its strategic plan, 2008-2013. The report tracks overall progress and highlights concrete results of the support that UNIFEM provided to countries in 2009. The report concludes with a set of recommendations on the ways in which the development effectiveness and organizational effectiveness of UNIFEM can be further strengthened.

This is the last report to be submitted in fulfilment of the mandate set out in resolution 39/125, given that UNIFEM has been dissolved and is now part of the composite United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN Women, established by the Assembly in its resolution 64/289.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Context	3
III.	Overview	4
IV.	Development results framework	7
	A. Enhancing women's economic security and rights	8
	B. Ending violence against women	11
	C. Halting the spread of HIV and AIDS among women and girls	13
	D. Advancing gender justice in democratic governance	15
	E. Gaps and challenges: development results framework	17
V.	Management results framework	17
	A. Policy advice and catalytic programming (Area 1)	18
	B. United Nations coordination and reform (Area 2)	18
	C. Accountability, risk and oversight (Area 3)	20
	D. Administrative, human and financial capacities (Area 4)	20
	E. Gaps and challenges: management results framework	21
VI.	Integrated resources framework	21
VII.	Recommendations	21

I. Introduction

1. On 2 July 2010, in its resolution 64/289, the General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) "by consolidating and transferring to the Entity the existing mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, as well as those of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women". The new entity will also assume "the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women ...".

2. Until replaced by a new strategic plan, UNIFEM (to become part of UN Women) will report on its current plan for 2008-2013. The overall goal of the plan is to ensure that national commitments to advance gender equality and women's empowerment are implemented in stable and fragile States. The Executive Board authorized implementation of the plan (DP/2007/45) in its decision 2007/35 and extended it in decision 2009/13. UNIFEM works in partnership with Governments, civil society and United Nations organizations to strengthen women's economic security and rights, end violence against women, reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among girls and women and advance gender justice in democratic governance, including in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries.

3. The strategic plan contains the elements of the UNIFEM accountability framework, against which UNIFEM measures: (a) its contributions to progress on gender equality at the national, regional and global levels, on the basis of the outcomes, outputs and corresponding indicators in the development results framework; (b) its performance, on the basis of the outputs, indicators and targets in its managing for results framework; and (c) its progress towards mobilizing, allocating and expending the financial resources required for implementing the plan, as laid out in its integrated resources framework and in accordance with Executive Board decision 2004/20.

4. The present report covers the second year of implementation of the UNIFEM strategic plan for 2008-2013.

II. Context

5. Over the past 30 years, far-reaching commitments to advance gender equality and women's empowerment have been agreed at the global, regional and national levels. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) and the Millennium Development Goals continue to serve as relevant normative frameworks, along with notable new commitments made in 2009, including Security Council resolutions 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). Furthermore, numerous regional agreements are evidence of the increasingly solid normative platform for gender equality, including, but not limited to, the Convention of Belém do Pará in Latin America and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. At the same time, women continue to face the enormous challenges arising from the global economic

crisis, conflict and natural disasters, gender-based violence and the HIV epidemic. Effective implementation is central to ensuring that these agreements are converted into concrete, measurable progress for women and girls.

III. Overview

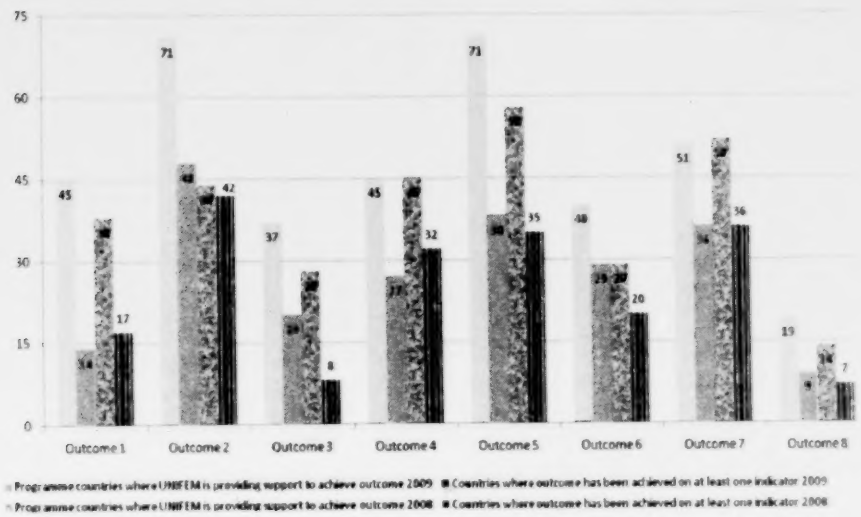
6. UNIFEM is a demand-driven organization, responding to requests for technical and programming support where opportunities arise and where gaps are most pressing. While demand consistently exceeds the Fund's capacity to respond, as was the case in 2009, an expanding resource base has helped UNIFEM to offer support to more countries. UNIFEM was able to respond to requests for programming and technical support in 98 countries, compared with 82 in 2008, in the four thematic areas comprising its development results framework. As shown in figure I, UNIFEM provided support to 81 countries to advance gender equality in the context of governance, peace and security; to 80 countries for women's economic security and rights; to 25 countries on the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS; and in the area of greatest increase — support to ending violence against women — the number of countries receiving support increased to 79 in 2009 from 56 in 2008. Figure II shows a similar trend in UNIFEM support to countries in making progress towards the achievement of the eight outcomes that frame the UNIFEM strategic plan, as in 2008, with a notable acceleration of support to legal and policy reform for gender equality.

Figure I

Number of programme countries for which UNIFEM was able to respond to support requests in 2008 and 2009, by theme

Figure II

Number of programme countries for which UNIFEM was able to respond to support requests in 2008 and 2009, by outcome



7. Figure III indicates that UNIFEM expenditure trends in 2009 were similar to those of 2008, with the capacity development of gender equality advocates, including national machineries for women and women's regional, national and local organizations and networks (outcomes 5 and 6) accounting for the largest share. This is consistent with the theory of change underpinning the strategic plan, according to which strengthening the effectiveness of these key interlocutors will generate positive change for gender equality at the legal and policy levels and better equip advocates to partner with Governments and other development actors to enhance their accountability for implementing commitments. The thematic distribution of expenditures (figure IV) is also similar to that of 2008. While expenditures under the HIV theme remained low, it is worth noting that this theme saw the largest percentage increase.

Figure III
Provisional programme expenditure distribution by outcome in 2008 and 2009
(Millions of United States dollars)

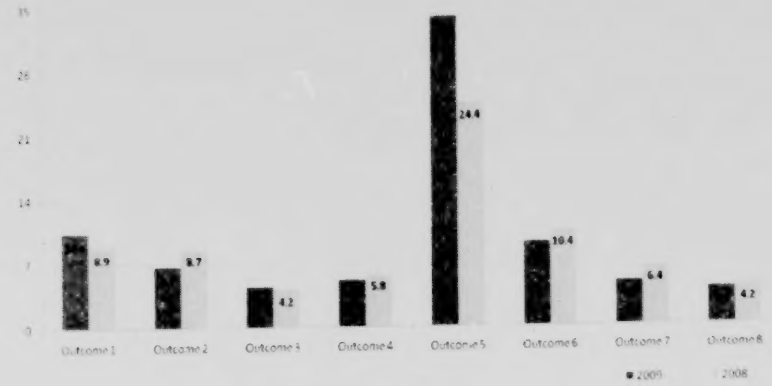
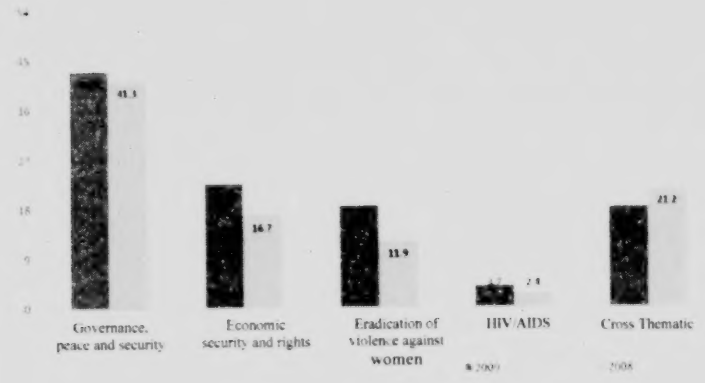


Figure IV
Provisional 2008 and 2009 programme expenditure distribution, by theme
(Millions)



8. UNIFEM works with numerous partners, including Governments, United Nations organizations, women's networks and civil society. Figures V and VI illustrate the range of partners with whom UNIFEM works to contribute to results outlined in the strategic plan. The majority of partners (figure V) are in Government and include institutions, ministries, local governments, the security sector, parliaments, national commissions and national women's machineries. Within the United Nations system (figure VI), UNIFEM partners most frequently with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which combined account for approximately 50 per cent of the total number of United Nations partnerships as reflected in the development and management results frameworks.

Figure V
All partners in 2009

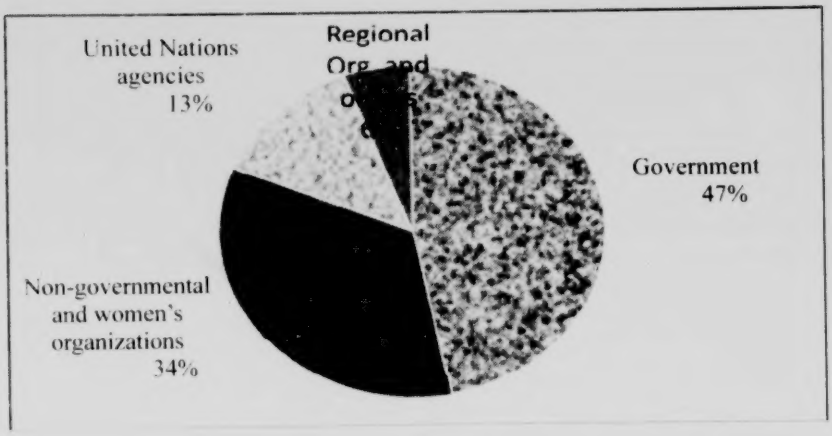
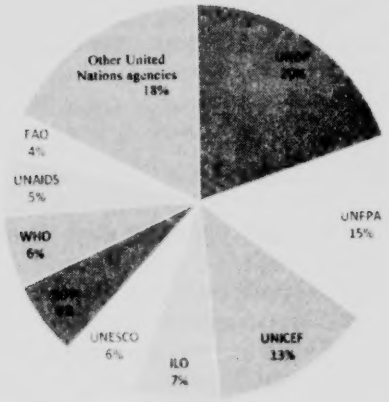


Figure VI
United Nations partners in 2009

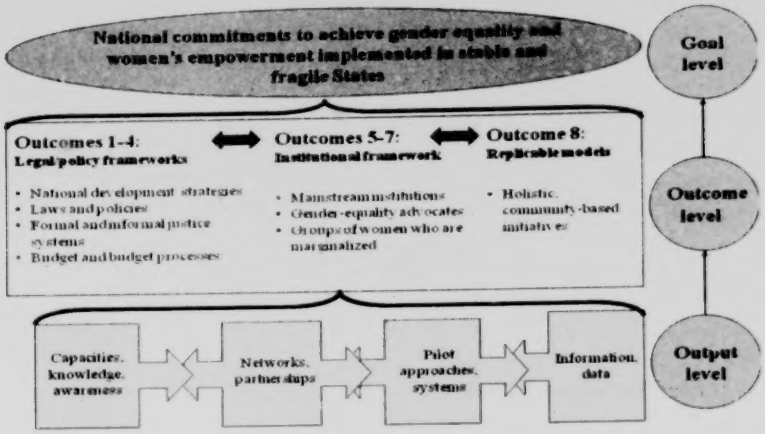


IV. Development results framework

9. The UNIFEM development results framework contains eight outcome-level results that together represent a comprehensive effort to support countries in advancing implementation of their commitments to gender equality. The framework is based on a holistic approach that requires support for simultaneous change at the macro, meso and microlevels. In this regard, UNIFEM supports partners to enhance the gender responsiveness needed from the national policy environment and mainstream institutions in order to deliver on commitments. It also supports gender equality advocates in building their capacity and knowledge for intensifying action and accountability. UNIFEM support for innovative pilot programmes generates

credible evidence of effective work at the microlevel to inspire replication and upscaling. Figure VII illustrates the development results logic that drives the work of UNIFEM (see DP/2007/45 for a description of outcomes).

Figure VII
Development results logic



10. The section that follows describes the progress made towards achieving results at three levels, according to the eight outcome-level results described above and within each of the four thematic areas. All results reported are country-owned results and the role of UNIFEM is to support partners in their efforts to make progress towards achieving them.

A. Enhancing women's economic security and rights

11. UNIFEM supports efforts to enhance women's economic security and rights through programmes that: (a) strengthen the gender equality dimensions of macroeconomic policies, including national development frameworks; (b) increase financing of gender equality commitments in strategies relating to poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals; and (c) enable women to enhance their rights in specific sectors of the formal and informal economy and to have equitable access to productive assets.

12. In this thematic area, UNIFEM worked with Government partners — including ministries of finance, planning and labour and national women's machineries — networks of economists, women's non-governmental organizations, excluded groups of women (migrant workers, home-based workers and rural women) and United Nations country teams. UNIFEM and its partners worked to: (a) incorporate national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in 15 national or regional poverty-reduction or other economic frameworks; (b) support efforts towards the adoption of 20 laws or policies that advanced women's economic capacities and rights in 13 countries (compared with 15 in 2008); (c) support expansion of access to legal assistance for women to enhance their economic rights

in five countries (compared with seven in 2008); and (d) support to institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting in 27 countries (compared with 32 in 2008).

13. In cooperation with many United Nations partners — most often with UNDP — UNIFEM supported national partners to strengthen the gender equality commitments contained in two approved poverty reduction strategies in 2009 (compared with seven in 2008) and 12 newly adopted or revised national development strategies or other policy frameworks, including national plans and strategies relating to employment, donor coordination and environmental standards (compared with 12 in 2008), and one regional development strategy. UNIFEM supported gender equality advocates from both Government and civil society to engage in multi-stakeholder platforms, providing analyses relating to the impact of new aid modalities on women's empowerment and advocating for the inclusion of agreed national commitments, such as national plans of action on gender equality, where such plans existed.

14. For example, with European Union support for aid effectiveness, the Government of Cameroon formed a multi-stakeholder platform through a decree from the Ministry of Planning to oversee national development processes and the aid process. Gaps relating to gender equality within Vision 2035 and the Strategy Document for Growth and Employment were identified through the coordinated efforts of the Gender Equality Working Group, which used the national gender policy as a basis for the effective mainstreaming of gender equality in the national plans. Specific gender equality commitments included in the plans centre on boosting women's participation in decision-making processes, reducing maternal mortality, increasing women's economic potential and integrating a gender dimension into planning and budgetary processes at all levels.

15. In 2009, UNIFEM supported legal and policy reform, often in partnership with the International Labour Organization and ministries of labour, including through: continuing efforts across Asia to protect women's rights in the context of migration; securing women's rights to land in several countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as in Ecuador and Rwanda; introducing laws to address sexual harassment in the workplace in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Nepal and Pakistan and in countries in West Africa; legislating equal employment opportunities in Kazakhstan and the Republic of Moldova; strengthening the legal framework in the Plurinational State of Bolivia to quantify household work so that it can be reflected in the national accounts and the gross national product; and introducing more effective policies to protect women in the informal economy in Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.

16. Crucial in the context of the economic and financial crisis, UNIFEM supported stronger social protection legislation in Albania, Kyrgyzstan and throughout the Caribbean region. Working with the United Nations system in the context of the "Delivering as one" pilot, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of Albania integrated gender equality concerns into the revised social assistance/economic aid law on the basis of the findings of a local beneficiary analysis conducted in two municipalities. The main revisions were focused on expanding the categories of female-headed households eligible for economic aid.

17. In 2009, UNIFEM continued its support, initially extended in 2001, to gender-responsive budgeting initiatives. Results included an increase in the number of budget processes that reflected efforts to incorporate gender equality. With UNIFEM

assistance, ministries of finance issued or reissued gender-responsive budgeting guidelines in 10 countries in 2009[1] (compared with 16 in 2008). In 2009, UNIFEM also supported the incorporation of gender-equality measures in sector and local budget processes in 23 countries (compared with 17 in 2008). Monitoring mechanisms to track progress of gender-responsive budgeting initiatives were initiated or strengthened by civil society and Government partners in 14 countries (compared with the same number in 2008).

18. Allocations for gender-responsive budgeting efforts in Nepal — based on data generated by an information system that tracks budget allocations for gender-responsive programmes — increased from 14 per cent in 2008/09 to 17 per cent in 2009/10. This information system was put in place by the Ministry of Finance following the recommendation of the Gender-Responsive Budgeting Committee. In Morocco, UNIFEM has supported gender-responsive budgeting since 2001 and continues, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, to deepen its support to sectoral ministries for capacity development and the provision of technical support. The gender report accompanying the country's 2010 finance law included 25 line-ministry departments, up from 21 in 2008 and an initial four in 2006.

19. Supporting the sustainable capacities of gender-equality experts and mainstream institutions to advocate for, monitor and/or implement gender equality commitments on women's economic security and rights is critical to progress in this area. In 2009, UNIFEM supported women's governmental and non-governmental organizations in 23 countries (compared with 26 in 2008) by helping them to participate in decision-making forums relevant to the economic policies affecting women's lives and by encouraging dialogues with decision makers to strengthen monitoring and accountability. UNIFEM also provided support to networks of economically excluded women — including women living in rural areas, indigenous women, HIV-positive women, migrant women and home-based women workers — in 20 countries (compared with 13 in 2008) to help them develop a common agenda. Moreover, UNIFEM capacity development efforts contributed to enhancing the performance of key ministries in 15 countries, including those of labour, finance, education, justice, trade and agriculture, as well as regional organizations and statistics bureaux to promote implementation of laws and policies relating to women's access to decent work, productive resources and social protection.

20. UNIFEM works with policy, service-delivery and media institutions to create enabling environments that promote and protect women's economic security and rights. Through initiatives with ministries of labour, UNIFEM supported efforts to enhance social protection for working women in Cambodia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Panama, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia. In Cambodia, the standardized contract for overseas Cambodian migrant workers was developed, finalized and readied for approval by the Ministry of Labour.

21. UNIFEM partners with mainstream development actors to identify promising pilot initiatives that can demonstrate innovative approaches to enhancing women's economic security and market opportunities, and invests increasingly in rigorous evaluations to generate learning that supports upscaling or replication by national,

[1] Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

regional or international partners. In 2006, UNIFEM began a four-year partnership with the World Bank and the International Centre for Research on Women in a pilot programme of results-based initiatives for women's economic empowerment in six countries that incorporate impact evaluation (40 per cent of the budget) as part of programme design. In Egypt, the Government adopted a corporate seal of approval, embraced by 10 private-sector companies, along with an assessment methodology for human resources departments to determine levels of gender equality in the workplace. The country's Ministry of Investment established the Gender Equity Certification Unit to ensure replication and upscaling of such initiatives at the national level.

B. Ending violence against women

22. Ending impunity, encouraging greater investment in prevention and expanding partnerships with men, boys and faith-based organizations are key priorities in UNIFEM support to countries to end violence against women. The Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" (UNiTE Campaign) and successive General Assembly resolutions have stimulated increased action on ending violence against women at the country level and throughout the United Nations system. On behalf of the United Nations system, UNIFEM administers the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, as designated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/166.

23. UNIFEM work in this thematic area is in line with the goals of the UNiTE Campaign, which aims to achieve the following five outcomes in all countries by 2015: (a) adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls; (b) adopt and implement multisectoral national action plans; (c) strengthen data collection on the prevalence of violence against women and girls; (d) increase public awareness and social mobilization; and (e) address sexual violence in conflict.

24. With an increasing number of countries adopting national laws, policies and strategies to end violence against women, it is critical that these agreements be reflected in mainstream national strategies and budgets. In 2009, UNIFEM supported partners to successfully advocate for the inclusion of commitments to end violence against women in national development strategies in three countries (compared with five in 2008); contributed to efforts to secure approval of 16 laws (compared with eight in 2008) and five policies (compared with seven in 2008) relating to multiple forms of violence against women; and supported efforts to end impunity for violations of women's rights, which resulted in justice system reforms in six countries[2] (compared with four in 2008).

25. In 2009, UNIFEM support to its partners resulted in the approval of laws, including in Afghanistan, Colombia, Mexico and Rwanda. In Afghanistan, UNIFEM has worked with civil society activists, parliamentarians and the Parliamentary Women's Commission since 2007, and by July 2009, these efforts had resulted in the reform and the signing of the Ending Violence against Women law, which marks the first time in the country's history that rape and violence against women have been criminalized. As part of an overall United Nations effort to strengthen the rule

[2] Argentina, China, India, Guinea, Nepal and Sierra Leone.

of law in the context of the One United Nations Initiative, 2008-2011, UNIFEM support in Rwanda has enabled survivors of sexual or other forms of violence to claim for damages.

26. UNIFEM partnered with Governments to support the development of the capacities of decision makers in formal and informal justice systems in efforts to end violence against women, including by ensuring that women survivors of violence could access legal assistance under 15 country/territory programmes[3] (compared with 11 in 2008), through support to capacity development for paralegals, the development of guidelines, awareness-raising on access to services at the community level; and capacity development of men and women judges in 10 countries.

27. A sampling of results achieved in 2009 included the following: in Nepal, in-camera hearings guidelines were finalized and adopted by the National Judicial Academy; and in Hunan Province, China, the first-ever landmark judicial guidelines on domestic violence cases were adopted. In Argentina, the Supreme Court of Justice established the Office for Domestic Violence and the Women's Office — the first entities of their kind at the national level. In addition, courts in all 20 provinces of Argentina have signed agreements to replicate the Office for Domestic Violence at the provincial level. UNIFEM, UNDP and UNICEF supported this effort, including by sponsoring exchange visits between the Supreme Court and the provincial courts.

28. UNIFEM works to support capacity-building for gender equality advocates in the areas of advocacy, policy influence and political space in order to bring an end to violence against women. In 2009, UNIFEM supported efforts in seven countries[4] to strengthen capabilities for tracking the implementation of commitments; national women's machineries in nine countries to lead cross-sectoral efforts to improve policies and services delivery; and additional efforts to localize funding sources. UNIFEM worked with police, national statistics bureaux and a range of Government ministries — including health and education ministries and ombudsperson offices — to track the prevalence of gender-based violence and increase the availability of services for survivors in 31 countries (compared with 11 in 2008).

29. In 2009, UNIFEM supported women's networks to monitor commitments to end violence against women through prevalence and opinion surveys and/or through the creation of databases and observatories in Algeria, Mexico and Morocco. The Ministry of Women's Affairs of Cambodia, one of the few countries to establish a national Millennium Development Goals target on ending violence against women, commissioned a follow-up to a baseline survey conducted in 2005 to collect information and monitor changes in attitudes and behaviours as a result of the Government's performance in implementing anti-violence measures, and made a number of key policy recommendations.

30. UNIFEM joined other entities in the United Nations system in initiatives to engage men and boys in efforts to end violence against women. These activities involve support to men's networks focused on these issues, and to work in areas that

[3] Afghanistan, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Haiti, India, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

[4] Afghanistan, Algeria, Cambodia, Ecuador, India, Mexico and Morocco.

traditionally have been predominately male, such as the leadership of faith-based groups, the judiciary and the security sector. Notably, UNIFEM is expanding its partnerships with networks of men and boys at global, regional and national levels, including with Promundo and the MenEngage Alliance.

31. UNIFEM has increased its efforts to build the capacities of police to respond to violence against women, track cases and/or link with other services, such as medical and legal assistance, in 16 countries and territories and one region.[5] Particularly noteworthy is the recognized leadership of the Rwanda National Police and the Rwandan Defence Forces, both of which are regularly consulted throughout Africa for technical assistance and training programmes for police and the military on effective strategies to end violence against women, with strong support from UNDP.

32. At the community level in 2009, progress was made in furthering the development of the global programme Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls 2008-2014, which includes a strong impact-evaluation component intended to develop a proven model for upscaling by municipalities. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to formalize inter-agency collaboration. In addition, a critical partnership of lead expert organizations was formed, which includes Women in Cities International, Red Mujer y Habitat de América Latina and the International Centre for Research on Women.

C. Halting the spread of HIV and AIDS among women and girls

33. At the global level, 2009 saw a renewed focus on the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS in the development of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Action Framework on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV/AIDS, supported by an operational plan with key accountability outlined for the United Nations system, under the leadership of UNAIDS, and endorsed by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board. Although not a UNAIDS co-sponsor, UNIFEM participated in the development of the Action Framework; is a member of the Global Task Force on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV/AIDS; and co-chairs the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS.

34. To promote a coherent, gender-sensitive approach to halting the spread of HIV, UNIFEM works in collaboration with the United Nations system, national AIDS councils and civil society partners, giving priority to support for HIV-positive women's networks to advocate for increased attention to key gender and women's human rights concerns, addressing interlinkages between HIV and violence against women and mainstreaming gender into national AIDS plans.

35. National AIDS plans are central planning tools that guide work in various sectors and behind which donors align their support. In 2009, working with Governments, civil society and United Nations system partners, UNIFEM supported

[5] Afghanistan, Argentina, Burundi, Haiti, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Kosovo (as defined by the Security Council in its resolution 1244 (1999)), and in eight Caribbean nations through the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police, an umbrella organization for 24 police agencies in the region.

the integration of gender equality into HIV strategies at the national level in three countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Rwanda (compared with one country in 2008).

36. The long history of UNIFEM support to HIV-positive women's groups was cited in the 2006 evaluation of UNIFEM: programming in this area was found to be a key strategy for increasing attention to the gender dimensions of the epidemic. In 2009, UNIFEM supported HIV-positive women's networks and groups to develop specific calls for Government action in 12 countries[6] (compared with five countries in 2008) and supported the advocacy efforts of two regional networks and one global network).[7] These groups have articulated a range of issues, including: an end to stigmatization, discrimination and violence; increased access to antiretroviral therapy; improved livelihoods options; and support for home-based care work.

37. In 2009, UNIFEM also supported partners to strengthen service delivery to women infected or affected by HIV through mainstream institutions in nine countries[8] and throughout the Caribbean region. This work addressed the intersections of violence against women and HIV by, for example, supporting a protocol for the Ministry of Health in Ecuador and offering health, education and social service sector training in the Caribbean region. UNIFEM also supported efforts to expand service centres that address violence against women to include counselling and HIV testing in Rwanda and Nigeria.

38. In 2009, UNIFEM deepened its support to the national AIDS control programme in Cambodia, where it has supported the placement of gender advisers, and in Nigeria, where a gender manager supports national policy development and implementation. The latter case became a model for a programme financed by the European Commission, on the basis of which UNIFEM plans to support similar work in five countries.

39. Since 2006, the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women has provided support to a learning cohort of seven grantees that generate knowledge on how to address the intersections between violence against women and HIV in order to develop effective approaches for replication and upscaling. In 2009, in partnership with PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health), it continued to provide that group of grantees with technical assistance for the development and implementation of rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems.

40. With the support of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, State hospitals in Nigeria have established police-doctor and post-exposure prophylaxis coordinators through multisectoral anti-violence committees, which operate as referral systems and extend to six communities across two States to address the intersection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women. The committees identify and address related cases and institutionalize protocols across health, law enforcement and legal sectors. Capacity

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[6] Ecuador, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Somalia, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[7] Regional networks in Asia and the Pacific and in the Caribbean; and the Global Caregivers Alliance.

[8] Cambodia, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia and Nigeria.

development activities have succeeded in engaging men and boys, in particular traditional rulers, who are active in the committees and committed to their sustainability.

D. Advancing gender justice in democratic governance

41. One of the pillars of UNIFEM work to advance democratic governance is to support the development of participatory, responsive, equitable and inclusive decision-making processes, including in post-conflict settings.

42. In 2009, UNIFEM worked in partnership with national women's machineries, women's community-based non-governmental organizations, gender-equality advocates, United Nations country teams and many Government partners to secure the incorporation of commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment into humanitarian relief strategies in three countries and support the passage of 33 laws or policies strengthening women's participation in democratic governance (compared with 27 in 2008). UNIFEM supported: (a) eight countries in developing national action plans pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), with four finalized; (b) five countries in introducing stronger gender equality provisions in their constitutions, with one ratified; (c) 11 countries[9] in the formulation of national plans and policies on gender equality; and (d) a regional gender policy for the African Union and for Aceh Province in Indonesia.

43. In many cases, more targeted reporting by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has enabled UNIFEM Consultative Committee members to provide stronger recommendations that have in turn influenced policies at the national level. A positive trend in 2009 saw the development of action plans to accompany gender policies in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mali, and examples of budgeted plans in the Republic of Moldova and Serbia.

44. At the global, regional and national levels, UNIFEM is supporting Member States and national partners to advance the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). As host of the secretariat of the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict initiative, UNIFEM played an important role in its work with partners to support evidence-based advocacy in the lead-up to the adoption of resolutions 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). The value of this contribution was noted in an independent assessment undertaken by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

45. Leading up to the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), in 2010, UNIFEM continued its participation in a series of inter-agency efforts that in 2008 began to support partners in adopting national action plans pursuant to that resolution in Liberia, Nepal, Rwanda and Uganda. In Liberia, leadership at the highest levels ensured increased budgetary allocations across multiple sectors to implement the action plan, and the Liberia National Police and the Ministry of Justice mobilized funds to set up a sexual crimes unit. Together with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and

[9] Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Niger, the Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, UNIFEM is leading an initiative to build on national efforts to develop global indicators on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), as mandated in resolution 1889 (2009).

46. The driving force behind all UNIFEM actions to advance gender equality is its partnerships with women's networks, both governmental and non-governmental. In 2009, UNIFEM supported initiatives to develop the capacity of gender-equality advocates to press for, monitor and support the implementation of national commitments to gender equality in 71 countries (compared with 58 in 2008). This included support to national women's machineries, key political parties to promote women's rights in eight countries[10] (compared with six in 2008), and women to develop common agendas for peace and reconciliation in eight countries.

47. In 2009, UNIFEM provided support in the areas of organizational development, training, research and planning to enable national women's machineries to lead, facilitate, monitor and support gender mainstreaming throughout Government ministries. UNIFEM also supports such machineries by developing their capacities to work effectively with other Government ministries, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations to develop and implement national policies on women.

48. UNIFEM support to national women's machineries in the Andean region contributed to the creation of the Andean Council of Senior Advisers on Women and Equal Opportunities by the Andean Community. This Council, comprised of high-level representatives, such as ministers, secretaries of State or other equivalent Government representatives, works to promote equal opportunities between women and men, eliminate violence against women and build a more just and equitable new regional society.

49. Supporting coalitions of women that work together across lines of conflict to call for attention to women's human rights remains one of the most effective paths to strengthening gender equality in peacebuilding and post-conflict resolution. UNIFEM has 15 years of experience in supporting the efforts of these coalitions to attain their rightful place at negotiating tables. In 2009, UNIFEM was most deeply engaged with: coalitions of women in Afghanistan and of Afghan and Pakistani women; the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Peace; women's coalitions in the Sudan and Uganda; and women's groups in the Balkans and Georgia.

50. As part of its ongoing efforts to ensure that women's voices influence decision-making, UNIFEM worked with the Institute for Inclusive Security to bring Afghan gender equality advocates to the International Conference on Afghanistan. The delegation highlighted priorities that were included in the final communiqué of the Conference, including a commitment to fully implement the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan and the recently signed Law on Elimination of Violence against Women.

51. At the community level and with support from the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, UNIFEM is implementing a programme on women's participation in peacebuilding in six post-conflict

[10] Antigua and Barbuda, China, Indonesia, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda and Uruguay.

countries[11] that is generating replicable approaches. In Liberia, community-based "peace huts" help to develop the capacity of community groups in institutional and business management and adult literacy. The project is being replicated within two United Nations joint programmes and discussions are under way to bring the model to the national level through the Ministry of the Interior.

E. Gaps and challenges: development results framework

52. Gaps and challenges related to support for countries in advancing their national priorities under the UNIFEM thematic areas include: linking the capacity-building of political aspirants to actual changes in the percentage of women elected, and further translating these gains into improved public-service delivery for women through increased accountability; increasing work with political parties to make the issue of violence against women candidates and leaders more visible and to strengthen partnerships with other actors that are supporting efforts to confront this challenge; and strengthening programmatic and policy responses to bring attention to and take action on the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS.

53. Additionally, while significant improvements have been made and efficiencies gained in the results-based reporting emanating from the computerized tracking system launched in 2009, additional support and internal capacity development are required to continuously improve the relevance and validation of reporting, including to demonstrate contributions to country-level results.

V. Management results framework

54. The management results framework tracks UNIFEM performance across four result areas: policy advice and catalytic programming; United Nations coordination and reform; accountability, risk and oversight; and administrative, human and financial capacities. Unlike the development results framework — which contains both outcome- and output-level results — the management results framework, for which UNIFEM is wholly responsible, contains 17 outputs and 58 indicators, against which UNIFEM tracks progress and gaps.

55. UNIFEM efforts in this area are guided by General Assembly resolutions 62/208 and 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system, in which the General Assembly called upon the United Nations development system to avail itself of UNIFEM technical experience on gender issues and encouraged UNIFEM to strengthen its efforts to provide strategic guidance to the United Nations system on gender equality.

A. Policy advice and catalytic programming (Area 1)

56. This result tracks the extent to which UNIFEM develops systems to ensure that it learns from, improves and documents how its provision of advocacy, technical support and catalytic programming advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

[11] Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Timor-Leste and Uganda.

57. An essential element is the establishment of state-of-the-art evaluation practices that align with United Nations Evaluation Group standards. UNIFEM is making good progress in this area; it has finalized its evaluation policy and is implementing gender-responsive evaluation training modules with its staff and partners.

58. As part of an effort to continuously improve evaluation practice, in 2008, the UNIFEM Evaluation Unit conducted an internal review to establish a baseline. A 2009 assessment identified a 10 per cent improvement in evaluation quality in comparison with 2008. The Evaluation Resource Centre will be fully functional in 2010 and will publicly post all evaluations and management responses to evaluations. A total of 11 management responses were produced in 2009.

59. UNIFEM produces guidance for the United Nations and other partners to strengthen knowledge and practice to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2009, highlights included guidance notes for mediators in five key areas of peace negotiations that contributed to discussions relevant to Security Council resolutions 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009); guidance on integrating gender-responsive budgeting in the aid effectiveness agenda; the launch of a virtual knowledge centre on ending violence against women; and an accountability checklist for national AIDS planning.

60. Nine efforts to replicate or upscale UNIFEM-supported initiatives were tracked in 2009 (compared with eight in 2008). They included the replication of the Rwanda National Police and the Rwandan Defence Forces training curricula to fight violence against women and/or gender desks in eight instances;[12] and the upscaling of community-based training for a women migrant workers initiative in 40 villages by the Government of Indonesia, supported by the Australian Agency for International Development, the Government of Japan and the World Bank.

B. United Nations coordination and reform (Area 2)

61. In 2009, UNIFEM expanded participation in United Nations coordination and reform processes at all levels and was engaged in 95 joint programmes (compared with 72 in 2008 — see figure VIII) and participated in eight "Delivering as one" pilots. UNIFEM participates in or leads gender theme groups in 69 countries, as well as 75 other coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and country levels (figure IX). UNIFEM continued to contribute to promoting stronger attention to gender equality, participating in 13 common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks in 2009. Also in 2009, seven United Nations country teams called on UNIFEM to conduct gender audits.

[12] Burundi, Fiji, Kenya, Nigeria, south Darfur, south Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

Figure VIII
UNIFEM participation in joint programmes

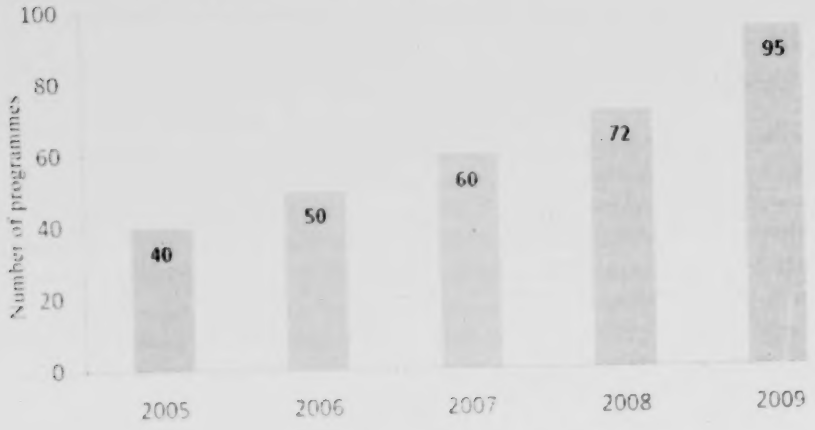
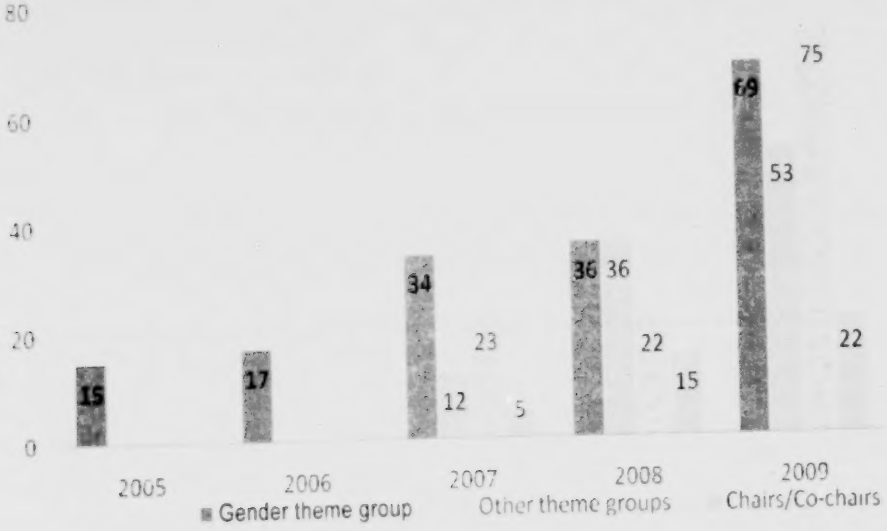


Figure IX
Yearly trend: number of gender coordination mechanisms led or co-led by UNIFEM, 2005-2009



62. UNIFEM prioritized support to United Nations system-wide efforts by actively participating in three task forces convened by the Deputy Secretary-General (gender architecture, the UNiTE Campaign and the rule of law); continued stewardship of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women; hosting the secretariat of the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict initiative; and co-chairing the working group on programming issues for the United Nations Development Group.

63. The 17-member United Nations Development Group Task Team on Gender Equality, which UNIFEM chaired for three years, produced an agreed set of

performance indicators on gender equality for United Nations country teams, which was distributed to United Nations country teams in 2008. In 2009, the Task Team tracked their implementation in eight countries, while 40 other countries are in different stages of implementation planning.

C. Accountability, risk and oversight (Area 3)

64. In 2009, UNIFEM addressed the management issues of accountability, risk and oversight by strengthening staff capacity to monitor and report on results and continuing the phased delegation of authority of operational and programmatic business processes from headquarters to subregional offices.

65. Efforts to improve results tracking and reporting systems focused on finalizing and fully implementing the electronic results tracking system for the strategic plan. The system enables UNIFEM to perform better results-based quantitative and qualitative analyses, comparative across years, with results being linked to budgets and expenditures and verified by supporting documentation. UNIFEM also commissioned a review, the results of which will be available in 2010, of the quality of design and results orientation of its programme documents and the rigour of its programme appraisal processes.

66. UNIFEM also strengthened its policy, oversight and monitoring capacity, including through the delegation of authority. Seven offices have met the criteria for and been granted delegated authority. At the end of 2009, a total of 11 internal control frameworks from the field and headquarters units had been developed and approved. Reports based on enterprise resource planning system (Atlas) information are being systematically used throughout UNIFEM as risk management tools. A total of 12 internal audits were conducted between 2006 and 2009, which means that approximately 70 per cent of the subregional offices were audited at least once during the most recent three-year period.

D. Administrative, human and financial capacities (Area 4)

67. This output area tracks the extent to which UNIFEM has the administrative, human and financial capacities to respond to requests for technical expertise and financial support. Wave II of the Atlas enterprise resource planning system used by UNIFEM and other United Nations funds and programmes has been in place since January 2009 and is running satisfactorily.

E. Gaps and challenges: management results framework

68. While the UNIFEM management results framework recorded significant output results in 2009, reporting and reviews suggest that systems and knowledge should be enhanced to improve performance in a number of areas.

69. UNIFEM is working with the United Nations Development Group to develop a standard operational format and guidance for reporting progress on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. UNIFEM will also revise its reporting guidelines to ensure consistency with the standard operational format and more

systematically assess its contributions to United Nations country team commitments.

70. In 2010, UNIFEM will continue to invest in strengthening technical platforms and staff capacities for knowledge management to enable greater access to distilled knowledge assets for internal and external consumption.

VI. Integrated resources framework

71. The number of countries contributing to UNIFEM regular and other resources increased from 80 in 2008 to 102 in 2009. The number of multi-year pledges more than doubled over the year, from 11 to 24. Contributions for 2009 increased by 14 per cent to $138 million, compared with $121 million in 2008. Core contributions increased to $62 million, an increase of 21 per cent over the 2008 total of $51 million; while non-core contributions (excluding special trust funds managed by UNIFEM) increased by $6 million, or 8 per cent, to reach $76 million. An additional $3.6 million was received for the Fund for Gender Equality in 2009, over the initial $65 million granted by the Government of Spain in 2008. Contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women increased by $5 million, or 27 per cent, to reach $23 million in 2009.

72. UNIFEM reached delivery of 85 per cent of regular (core) resources and 75 per cent of non-core resources by the fourth quarter of 2009. It is worth noting that UNIFEM received more than half of its non-core resources, equivalent to $45 million out of $76 million, in the fourth quarter of the year, which had an impact on programming and the delivery rate for 2009. For the first time, the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women disbursed grants to United Nations country teams, in addition to Governments and non-governmental organizations. The Fund for Gender Equality made its first grant of $9.99 million in 2009. UNIFEM tracked trends in changes of the ratio of the biennial support budget to resources used and noted a decrease of 0.5 per cent from 2008.

VII. Recommendations

73. The UNIFEM Consultative Committee, which comprises five Member States (Egypt, Chile, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Korea and Sweden) appointed by the President of the General Assembly, held its fiftieth session on 24 and 25 March 2010.

74. The Consultative Committee expressed great appreciation to the Executive Director and the staff of UNIFEM for their work in the past year and made the following recommendations, designed to enhance the Fund's effectiveness.

The UNIFEM Consultative Committee:

1. Emphasizes that UNIFEM is an essential component of the United Nations gender architecture, recommends that UNIFEM continue to be actively involved in the processes leading to a stronger and more coherent United Nations architecture for gender equality and empowerment of women, and in this respect welcomes General Assembly resolution 63/311 which, inter

alia, calls for the establishment of a composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women;

2. Welcomes the important work of UNIFEM on the ground and recommends UNIFEM to ensure that its technical and financial support, catalytic programming and strategic partnerships effectively respond to the growing demands of Member States, civil society and United Nations organizations until a new composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women is established;

3. Recognizes the improvement in UNIFEM results-based management, encourages its further strengthening, and requests that UNIFEM continue to report to it annually on the strategic plan, emphasizing the links between the inputs, outputs and outcomes and lessons learned, and tracking progress against the baseline according to the key results and indicators;

4. Encourages UNIFEM to analyse the factors that lead to successful replication and upscaling of programme interventions;

5. Further encourages UNIFEM to continue its active participation in the voluntary efforts of the "Delivering as one" pilots and looks forward to the independent evaluation of the "Delivering as one" pilots to be presented to the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly;

6. Commends UNIFEM on its leadership of the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Gender Equality, welcomes its work as Chair of the United Nations Development Group working group on policy issues and encourages UNIFEM to continue to contribute to the strengthening of the United Nations country team coordinated support to countries to advance gender equality and women's empowerment;

7. Reiterates that UNIFEM should be invited to participate in key high-level inter-agency coordination mechanisms;

8. Encourages UNIFEM to continue to strengthen its partnership with the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and to further explore the possibility of co-sponsorship of UNIFEM in UNAIDS;

9. Further encourages UNIFEM to actively participate in the 2010 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council, including, as appropriate, in its preparations, and in the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, to be held from 20 to 22 September 2010, including in its preparatory process, as outlined in resolution 64/184;

10. Continues to stress the importance of UNIFEM's input into the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and encourages UNIFEM to actively participate in the follow-up to the outcomes of the Commission, as appropriate;

11. Encourages UNIFEM to continue its work in supporting the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and to actively participate in the commemoration of its tenth anniversary;

12. Further encourages UNIFEM to continue to strengthen its work in support of gender-responsive budgeting;

13. Welcomes the final evaluation report on UNIFEM's partnerships with regional organizations and, in reaction to its findings, encourages the Fund to develop a strategy, including corporate tools for internal guidance, to frame its partnerships with relevant regional organizations;

14. Encourages UNIFEM to pay greater attention to the importance of engaging men and boys in its operations to strengthen gender equality and empower women;

15. Welcomes the continuing work of the UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassadors and takes note with appreciation of the positive impact of their activities;

16. Commends UNIFEM's ongoing advocacy campaign "Say No to Violence against Women" in support of the Secretary-General's multi-year campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and its participation in other inter-agency coordination efforts to end violence against women;

17. Welcomes the launch of the Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls and encourages UNIFEM to further develop that online platform and explore the possibility of broadening its scope to other thematic areas;

18. Commends UNIFEM for having surpassed the projections identified for resource mobilization in 2009 and the expansion of its partnerships with bilateral donors, civil society and private sector partners, encourages the Fund to continue to broaden its resource base and to seek stronger partnerships in order to meet the resource mobilization targets in its strategic plan, 2008-2013 and stresses the importance of securing predictable voluntary contributions;

19. Requests UNIFEM to respond to requests for support in a manner that strikes an appropriate balance among, and is consistent with, the four thematic areas of the strategic plan;

20. Notes with appreciation the operationalization of the Fund for Gender Equality, looks forward to receive a briefing on its work at the Committee's next annual session and recommends that UNIFEM ensure that the Executive Board is informed of the work of the Fund for Gender Equality;

21. Acknowledges the work of UNIFEM as manager of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, welcomes the evaluation of the Trust Fund and requests UNIFEM to continue to contribute to the implementation of the present recommendations;

22. Emphasizes the importance of reaching the target of annual disbursements of $100 million by 2015 for the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, as set out in the Framework for Action of the Secretary-General's multi-year campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and encourages UNIFEM and partner organizations to further intensify their resource mobilization efforts;

23. Decides to convene intersessional meetings in 2010 as needed.

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Item 65 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Promotion and protection of the rights of children: promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

Summary

The present report is submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to resolution 51/77 and subsequent resolutions on the rights of the child. It covers the period from August 2009 to August 2010. The report outlines critical child protection themes in the context of the changing nature of conflict and its impact on children. It describes an overall situation in which children continue to be the victims of grave violations in situations of conflict around the world, and a prevailing climate of impunity with respect to perpetrators.

Under the overarching frame of the changing nature of conflict, section I of the report highlights critical child protection themes and issues that require concerted attention and action. Section II focuses on addressing the impunity of perpetrators of grave violations against children, including through the judicious use of sanctions and other targeted measures, and stresses the imperative to undertake dialogue specifically for child protection purposes with all parties to a conflict. Section III identifies opportunities to strengthen child protection in United Nations peacemaking and peacekeeping engagements, an area that has seen significant gains in recent years in terms of more consistent and concerted focus on the protection of children.

2010 marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. In this regard, the report also highlights the two-year campaign launched by United Nations system partners for the universal ratification of the Protocol by 2012.

* A/65/150.

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The Special Representative's emphasis on field missions continues to be crucial in advancing the cause of children. The Special Representative considers it essential to engage with national Governments to ensure that the United Nations is able to support more effectively the efforts of national institutions in the protection, reintegration and rehabilitation of children.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to resolution 51/77 and subsequent resolutions on the rights of the child. It covers the period from August 2009 to August 2010. The report builds on the previous report of the Special Representative to the General Assembly (A/64/254) by outlining critical child protection themes in the context of the changing nature of conflict and its impact on children. It describes an overall situation in which children continue to be the victims of grave violations in situations of conflict around the world, and a prevailing climate of impunity with respect to perpetrators.

2. The Special Representative's emphasis on field missions continues to be crucial in advancing the cause of children. The main purpose of the visits is to bear witness on the ground to the situation of children and to gain concrete child protection commitments from parties to conflict and facilitate their preparation of action plans to address violations. The Special Representative considers it essential to engage with national Governments to ensure that the United Nations is able to support more effectively the efforts of national institutions in the protection, reintegration and rehabilitation of children. In the reporting period, the Special Representative undertook field visits to the Sudan (November 2009), Nepal (December 2009), Afghanistan (February 2010) and Uganda (May 2010). In addition, retired Major General Patrick Cammaert visited Sri Lanka in December 2009 as a Special Envoy of the Special Representative.

II. The changing nature of conflicts and emerging protection challenges

3. The 1996 Graça Machel study on the impact of armed conflict on children (A/51/306 and Add.1) and the 2007 10-year review of that study (see A/62/228) noted that the changing nature of conflict put children at a higher risk than ever before. Children have become more vulnerable to new tactics of war, including the blurring of lines between military and civilian targets, constriction of humanitarian space and access to affected populations, deliberate targeting of traditional safe havens and critical infrastructures such as educational institutions and medical facilities, and the rise of terrorism as well as counter-terrorism measures. Studies have also shown that armed conflicts hamper the achievement of the eight Millennium Development Goals, six of which promote the rights and well-being of children. Conflicts create an environment in which grave violations are committed against children and, by interrupting or slowing development, children are denied opportunities for a better future. Therefore, the changing nature of conflict and the impact on children continues to be an overarching framework of analysis for the agenda on children and armed conflict.

A. Protection of children in the course of military operations

4. Protecting vulnerable populations, and especially children, should be paramount during military operations. New tactics of war, the absence of clear battlefields and increasingly numerous and diverse parties to conflict in terms of their composition, motivations and character have complicated matters. Moreover,

the rise of terrorism where civilians are the main victims directly challenges the distinction between military and civilian targets, one of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. Counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency also blur the line between what is legitimate and what is not in addressing security threats. Raids against predominately civilian targets, including night raids, and the use of aerial bombardment in civilian-populated areas, make children more vulnerable to being killed or maimed and often serve to fuel resentment and conflict.

5. Rules of engagement of armed forces stipulate that the protection of civilians should remain the foremost consideration in the course of military operations. Increasingly, however, the record indicates that these strictures are inadequate to ensure the safety of children. Moreover, as noted by the Secretary-General in his most recent report on children and armed conflict (A/64/742-S/2010/181), there also seems to be a growing practice of putting children in the direct line of danger, through, for instance, their use for intelligence-gathering in military operations. This includes the interrogation of children separated from armed groups during military actions, in contravention of standards that require the immediate transfer of such children to protection actors.

6. In this regard, the development of standard operating procedures by armed forces is critical in order to put in place additional protection measures for children during military operations. Regional and United Nations peacekeeping missions should also prioritize such measures and procedures in the context of peacekeeping engagements or where international forces are supporting national forces in joint operations. These standard operating procedures may vary from one context to another, but a minimum set of measures should include:

(a) Joint military-civilian assessment of the security risk for populations, and especially children, prior to any military action;

(b) Refraining from engaging in combat and/or using heavy artillery in highly populated areas;

(c) Protecting schools and hospitals as zones of peace;

(d) Refraining from occupying or using schools and health facilities, or their vicinity, for purposes that could turn them into military targets;

(e) Undertaking post-operation evaluations of the impact on civilians, including children;

(f) Developing procedures for the reception, treatment and rapid handover to United Nations child protection actors of children separated from armed groups in the course of military operations.

7. Member States seem increasingly resolved to better protect vulnerable populations, including through more explicit civilian protection provisions in peacekeeping mandates. In United Nations peacekeeping, this has led to the development of new operational arrangements such as the Joint Protection Teams and Rapid Response and Early Warning Cell of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The objective of these initiatives is to deepen information as the basis for more effective action; to better coordinate action across civilian, police and military components of peacekeeping operations; and to leverage peacekeeping resources more effectively, in particular the advantage of their physical presence in remote areas where the

access of humanitarian actors may be limited. The evolution of the "conditionality policy" in MONUSCO (ensuring that support to national forces will be provided only if they comply with the condition that they protect civilians) is another healthy practice in the development of peacekeeping norms.

B. Children in detention

8. Detention of children for alleged association with armed groups or other threats to security remains a significant concern. This includes the use of administrative detention in several conflict scenarios. An unknown number of children have been captured, arrested and detained by security and law enforcement forces in contravention of international standards for juvenile justice.

9. Detention of children should be in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, which include specific protection with regard to the age of the child, access granted to child protection partners, appropriate legal counsel and provision of psychosocial support and activities. The treatment of children must be based on the objective of their future reintegration into society.

10. Child protection actors have regularly raised specific concerns related to conditions of detention, especially in overcrowded facilities, ill-treatment, including torture by adult detainees and corrections personnel, and acts of sexual violence perpetrated in detention facilities. The age of criminal responsibility is also a specific concern, particularly as it relates to children detained on security-related charges. Emphasis should be placed on alternatives to institutionalization of these children and on non-judicial and restorative processes.

11. Children being detained by multinational forces is also a concern that must be addressed by Member States. In such cases, access by child protection actors to all facilities, including high-security sites, is necessary for ensuring that procedures of detention and due process for children are in line with international standards. Beyond the responsibility and imperative to protect children, this represents a critical issue in respect of the credibility of international and multinational forces.

C. Education under attack

12. A marked characteristic of the changing nature of conflict is deliberate attacks against and destruction of educational infrastructure, including the targeting of schoolchildren and teachers. This is illustrated by data which indicate that over one third of the 72 million out-of-school children of primary school age reside in low-income countries affected by conflict.

13. In response to this crisis of education in conflict and other emergency settings, Member States, United Nations entities and civil society organizations have undertaken a concerted campaign in the past several years, which resulted in the adoption by the General Assembly in July 2010 of resolution 64/290 on the right to education in emergency situations. The resolution affirms that attacks on educational buildings is a war crime and threatens the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including in the context of education for all.

14. Another positive development is the recent creation of the interdisciplinary Global Coalition for Protecting Education from Attack, comprising United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and researchers. The Coalition will focus on the prevention of attacks on education, effective response, enhanced monitoring and reporting, increased accountability and development of stronger international norms.

15. Beyond the destruction of educational facilities through deliberate targeting or as collateral damage during armed confrontation, attacks against education also present other faces. For instance, there are reports of the use of acid and gas on girl students on their way to or at school, as well as shootings and suicide bombings in school premises. In some contexts, schools are a prime recruiting ground of children by armed groups. Elsewhere, school buildings are used as training centres or as military bases, turning them into high-value military targets.

16. The motivations for attacking teachers, students and school buildings are numerous and cynical, including to achieve military, political or sociocultural objectives. In some cases, attacks are perpetrated as a means of creating a general climate of insecurity, to destabilize local communities or target them for retribution for perceived support of the Government, or to undermine the Government by destroying symbols of State institutions. The result is a growing disregard for the sanctity of schools, the notion that schools, above all other places, are safe havens for children. The consequence is a growing fear among children to attend school, among teachers to give classes, and among parents to send their children to school.

17. Attacks against schools and hospitals have been designated as one of six grave violations that are now systematically recorded under the Secretary-General's monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations against children in armed conflict. However, such attacks are still underreported and there remains a lack of knowledge concerning the context of attacks, the perpetrators and their specific motivations, and other factors that need to be understood in order to address the problem.

18. It is imperative that schools and other educational facilities be considered as zones of peace for children — safe havens even in contexts of conflict and instability. The concept of schools as zones of peace should extend also to school instruction and curricula, with emphasis on peace education and fostering cultures of tolerance. There are examples in numerous contexts of educational institutions being hotbeds for radicalization and recruitment of children, a trend that must be countered.

D. Sexual violence

19. Sexual violence against children, particularly in the context of armed conflict, continues to be of utmost concern. Such violations are exacerbated in conflict situations by the general security vacuum and the lack of administrative, law enforcement and judicial infrastructures, among other factors.

20. Sexual violence is often used to achieve military, political and social objectives through, for instance, the targeting of specific ethnicities or terrorizing populations to force displacement. Data indicate that children are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence in and around refugee and internally displaced

population settings, and when they are directly associated with armed forces and groups. Child survivors of sexual violence suffer both physical and psychological consequences, which are often debilitating. This is particularly true for girls who have been raped or forced to "marry" combatants, as well as for their children born of rape.

21. Girls remain the main victims of sexual violence in armed conflict. However, there are increasing reports of sexual abuse committed against boys. This phenomenon is still not adequately understood, and is yet to be comprehensively addressed in advocacy, monitoring, reporting and response. Knowledge about sexual violence against boys continues to be thin, in part because boys are more reluctant to speak out about sexual violence and there is inherently a bias against questioning boys about such abuse.

22. Another aspect that tends to be underestimated is the trauma boys face as perpetrators or witnesses of sexual violence. They may be forced to commit rapes either directly by their commander or indirectly through peer pressure. Many may be forced to witness sexual violence perpetrated by others. It should be noted that through the jurisprudence of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (1998, Furundzija case), forcing an individual to witness acts of rapes and other sexual violence is considered as sexual torture under international law.

23. The previous reports of the Special Representative to the General Assembly emphasized the challenges of collecting data and reporting on sexual violence against children in armed conflict. Part of the problem lies in the fact that these acts are considered in many contexts as strong taboos, and as such survivors and communities are not encouraged to speak out. The lack of trust in judicial process and the fear of reprisals accentuate the culture of silence. Yet, more precise and comprehensive information, including details of incidents and the identity of perpetrators is a prerequisite to combating impunity and for more effective response programming. Monitoring, reporting and response to sexual violence requires both new perspectives and new methodologies, as well as more extensive partnerships across the United Nations system and beyond. For example, in the context of United Nations peacekeeping, collaboration between civilian components and United Nations military and police components may entail the matching of information on sexual violence with intelligence gathered on movements of armed parties, as a contribution to the identification of perpetrators, particularly in remote areas where humanitarian presence is thin. At the same time, more precise incident-related information must be complemented by macro-level information as it relates to the scope and trends of sexual violence. More timely and effective programming and dedication of sufficient resources depends on the deepening of all aspects of the information base on sexual violence.

24. In this regard, Security Council resolutions 1882 (2009) and 1888 (2009) challenge United Nations actors to put in place more rigorous monitoring and reporting mechanisms on sexual violence. Resolution 1882 (2009) advances monitoring practice by requiring the Secretary-General to list in his annual report on children and armed conflict parties who commit patterns of rape and other grave acts of sexual violence against children in contravention of international law. The Office of the Special Representative is in the process of developing templates, with the assistance of an international legal expert and former prosecutor of gender cases in the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International

Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, for action plans to ensure that parties that are listed will enter into agreements with the United Nations to prevent such violations, hold individuals accountable and take action to provide support to the victims.

25. Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) also breaks new ground through its establishment of a focused mandate of the Council dedicated to sexual violence in conflict. These developments have brought a new momentum to address this critical issue, and also represent new challenges in terms of coordinated action among a broad array of United Nations and civil society partners. Beyond the specific focus of the Council on addressing impunity of perpetrators of sexual violence, at the level of the General Assembly the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) has been established, with a broad mandate to coordinate the global efforts of the United Nations on gender-related issues as a whole.

26. Although these developments at the level of the General Assembly and Security Council represent critical and complementary advances, it is clear that action at the national level related to the prevention of and response to sexual violence is ultimately of paramount importance. Emphasis must be placed on the development and implementation of comprehensive national strategies to combat sexual violence, particularly in conflict situations and where children are more vulnerable. In this connection, United Nations organizations stand ready to provide technical support to national authorities in developing such strategies, and donors are encouraged to ensure that adequate resources are available for these efforts.

27. Sexual abuse and exploitation by peacekeeping personnel and humanitarian workers remains a challenge and represents a crisis of credibility for the international community as a whole. Since the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on such incidents, there has been an increase in the cases that have been reported, especially in the context of abuses in internally displaced person and refugee settings. The creation in 2002 of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises represents a step forward in enhancing protection measures. However, even greater commitment is required in implementation of accountability mechanisms and delivery of assistance to survivors. This is a collective responsibility of United Nations entities, regional organizations in the context of their peacekeeping engagements, NGOs and individual Member States in their capacity as troop-contributing countries.

E. Internally displaced children affected by armed conflict

28. In the previous report of the Special Representative to the General Assembly, concerns related to internally displaced children were highlighted and the report included an annex specifying the rights and guarantees for this vulnerable group (A/64/254, annex I). The Assembly acknowledged the guarantees in its resolution 64/162 on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons. These rights and guarantees include the principle of non-discrimination, the right to documentation, protection from violence and abuse, the right to essential services, and the requirement that when dealing with internally displaced children the best interest of the child must prevail.

29. A number of regional legal instruments also affirm the rights of internally displaced children, most notably the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention), which was adopted in October 2009. It includes specific provisions reaffirming the right of internally displaced persons to personal documentation, education, protection against recruitment and use in hostilities, kidnapping, abduction, sexual slavery and trafficking, and protection that addresses the special needs of separated and unaccompanied minors, as well as of mothers with young children. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child emphasizes the responsibility of States to ensure that internally displaced children receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance and pays special attention to the importance of reuniting families separated by displacement. Furthermore, the Council of Europe has adopted a number of recommendations concerning internal displacement, including the right of internally displaced children to education.

30. The Office of the Special Representative continues to focus on this issue as a mandate priority, and in this regard is preparing a working paper stressing the particular vulnerabilities of displaced children and the responsibilities of Governments and other stakeholders in providing them with adequate and timely protection and services.

F. Rethinking reintegration

31. The changing nature of conflict also carries implications and new challenges for the reintegration and rehabilitation of children. The United Nations system has invested significant resources in forging common standards and practice around disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of children. This has contributed significantly to system-wide buy-in and coordination for this critical priority. A tension exists, however, between the need for standardized practice and programmes and the fact that children face very different realities depending on the context. For instance, in settings of protracted conflict, children may be associated with armed forces and groups for many years. Others are abducted across borders, which has raised new challenges for regional coordination among many entities for family tracing, repatriation and reunification. In some contexts, children are increasingly used in terrorist activities and in counter-terrorism actions. It is also clear that the mode and rhythm for funding child disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes is increasingly under pressure where structured dialogue with parties to conflict and implementation of action plans to release children have yielded unanticipated caseloads.

32. Such considerations beg the question of whether current disarmament, demobilization and reintegration approaches and programmes are adequate and reflective of the variety of contexts in which children are being recruited and used or the range of their experiences. Another question is whether reintegration programmes are flexible or adaptable enough to address an increasingly broad range of scenarios for children in conflict situations.

33. Such an examination of the premises for child disarmament, demobilization and reintegration could be undertaken in the context of the Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, which provide guidance on the basis of lessons learned over the past 10 years. The Paris

Principles also call, as appropriate, for thorough needs assessments and review and reformulation of reintegration programmes through broad consultation of all relevant stakeholders.

III. Combating impunity for violations against children

A. Sanctions and other direct measures for grave child rights violations

34. Those who continue to commit grave child rights violations do so in part because they see that there are few, if any, personal consequences for abusing children. This perception, which is reinforced by the continued lack of direct action against perpetrators, must be redressed. Essentially, the cost of committing grave violations against children must be made prohibitive in terms of the personal consequences for perpetrators.

35. First and foremost, this requires commitment to action at the national level, through local legal and judicial infrastructure and on the basis of national legislation. In addition, such action should extend equally to Government functionaries or high-ranking members of armed forces where evidence of violations exists.

36. Beyond the national level, a central rationale and strategy for the engagement of the Security Council on the issue of children and armed conflict has been to hold perpetrators accountable under international law. The unique means of the Council to impose sanctions and other direct and targeted measures raises the stakes for perpetrators. Thus far, the Council has expressed its readiness to consider targeted measures against perpetrators of grave violations through its resolutions on children and armed conflict, including 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009). Council resolution 1882 (2009) also establishes a linkage between the Security Council's children and armed conflict agenda and its sanctions committees.

37. The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo has taken the unprecedented step of requesting further information on grave violations against children, and for the first time invited the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to brief the Committee in May 2010. As a result, it is anticipated that several names of individuals may be included on the Committee's list of individuals and entities against whom targeted measures will be imposed on the basis of verified information regarding their recruitment and use of children. To date, such close consideration of violations against children has not extended to the work of the other country-specific sanctions committees, but it will be important to build on the precedent set in the context of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in this regard. Possibilities should also be explored for a similar focus on grave child rights violations by other thematic committees, including the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism. It is also important to consider ways by which sanctions may be imposed in contexts where there are no existing Security Council sanctions committees.

38. These explicit expressions of commitment by the Security Council to take measures against perpetrators represent a credible threat of action that has been the basis for negotiation with many parties to conflict for commitments and action plans to address the grave violations for which they have been cited. The lack of action against some of the most persistent and egregious violators over the years is increasingly conspicuous, however, and reflects on the overall credibility of the United Nations agenda for children and armed conflict and on Member States and the Council itself.

39. Even as it is understood that sanctions are a measure of last resort, it is evident that the viability of the children and armed conflict agenda in which Member States have invested so much over the past years depends on the imposition of such measures against those who continue to flout international law and standards for the protection of children.

40. It should be noted that the focus of international criminal justice and mixed tribunals specifically on crimes against children has also raised the stakes in the fight against impunity. The Special Court for Sierra Leone paved the way for sanctioning individuals for child-specific violations by including such crimes in the indictments of all the individuals charged by the Court. This includes former President of Liberia Charles Taylor on counts of recruitment and use of children. In addition, despite the challenges in the trial of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo by the International Criminal Court for recruiting and using children, that case has symbolized the will of the international community to act for children and as such has sent a powerful message to perpetrators. As this is the first case before the International Criminal Court on the issue of children and armed conflict, and having filed an amicus curiae, the Special Representative gave testimony before the Court on the need to adopt a case-by-case method in deciding on what constitutes enlistment and conscription in terms of the statute. The Special Representative urged an interpretation that would not exclude girl children, who play multiple roles in many groups, not only as combatants but as wives and domestic aides.

B. Dialogue with parties to conflict

41. It is the long-held position of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict and United Nations child protection partners that the international community must seek to engage all parties to conflict in dialogue for the purpose of eliciting concrete child protection commitments and to ensure that parties prepare and implement action plans to both prevent and address grave violations for which they have been cited. Such dialogue does not prejudge the legal status of non-state parties, nor does it confer legitimacy. The primacy and imperative to protect children must override political considerations.

42. It should be noted that this is consistent with General Assembly resolution 64/146 on the rights of the child, which urges State and non-state actors to end grave violations against children by taking time-bound and concrete protection measures. This presupposes a possibility of dialogue between parties to conflict and protection actors to establish the modalities and verification of such measures.

43. The element of dialogue with parties to conflict for the preparation of time-bound action plans to address grave child rights violations represents one of the centrepieces of the United Nations agenda for children and armed conflict. In the

past several years, numerous parties to conflict in places such as Côte d'Ivoire, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Uganda and elsewhere, have begun to implement action plans that put in place measures to prevent child recruitment and to identify and release children already associated with their forces. As such practical action to address the issue of children associated with armed forces and groups has gained traction, credibility and momentum, the process is now under way to structure similar dialogue and action plans to address other violations, such as the killing and maiming of children and rape and other forms of sexual violence. For the children, this is where the promises of protection of the international community as expressed in international law and resolutions finally become tangible. As the primary duty bearers for the protection of children, Member States are encouraged to devise ways to enable child protection dialogue with State and non-state parties as necessary.

C. Children and transitional justice

44. In his report on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies (S/2004/616), the Secretary-General defines transitional justice as the full range of processes and mechanisms associated with a society's attempts to come to terms with a legacy of large-scale past abuses, in order to ensure accountability, serve justice and achieve reconciliation. These may include both judicial and non-judicial mechanisms, with differing levels of international involvement (or none at all) and individual prosecutions, reparations, truth-seeking, institutional reform, vetting and dismissals, or a combination thereof. Given the deep impact of conflict on children, child protection actors have advocated for a comprehensive view of the involvement and participation of children in all aspects of transitional justice. To attempt transitional justice processes without involving children not only fails to comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child — the most universally ratified international instrument — it also compromises the outcome of those processes.

45. The imperative of child participation in transitional justice has gained both credence and clarity in past years. The importance and potential of transitional justice for children is evident. At the same time, it is more widely recognized that their views and experience provide unique and critical contributions to these processes and to national reconciliation.

46. In 2002, the indictment for grave violations against children of all the individuals charged by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, as well as the involvement of children in that country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, signified a shift that placed the issue of child participation centrally in the international discourse on justice and truth-seeking mechanisms. Since then there has been significant investment to create guidance and common perspectives on the basis of lessons learned and of best practices from Sierra Leone and elsewhere.

47. In this regard, the Innocenti Research Centre of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Human Rights Program of Harvard Law School convened a meeting of experts and practitioners in April 2009 to consult on new and emerging issues in the area of child rights and transitional justice. This forum led to the publication in March 2010 of *Children and Transitional Justice: Truth-Telling,*

Accountability and Reconciliation. Critically, the publication outlines in an annex the key principles for children and transitional justice.

48. The key principles consist of overarching considerations for children in transitional justice processes as a whole, as well as specific precepts as related to judicial mechanisms, truth commissions and truth-seeking mechanisms, local, traditional and restorative justice processes, reparations for children and institutional reform.

49. The emphasis on institutional reform introduces a number of new issues such as the importance of working with educational experts and officials, the need to undertake legal reform and the urgency of creating economic opportunities for children and young people.

50. The key principles also address the issue of the appropriate form of accountability for alleged child perpetrators, and alternatives to judicial proceedings for children. They highlight the issue that children may simultaneously be victims, witnesses and alleged perpetrators of violations, but stress that they must be viewed primarily as victims in all circumstances.

51. The overarching considerations for the involvement of children in transitional justice processes are set out in the annex to the present report.

IV. Strengthening the child protection role of United Nations peacekeeping and political missions

A. Mainstreaming child protection in United Nations peacekeeping and political missions

52. In June 2009, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support adopted a policy directive on mainstreaming the protection, rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict. This groundbreaking policy reinforces the crucial role of peacekeeping missions in the protection of children. The directive is built around the key operational elements of the Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, in particular resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009). The directive therefore specifies the role of peacekeeping operations in key areas such as monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children, the conduct of dialogue with parties to the conflict for the preparation of time-bound action plans to address grave violations for which they have been cited by the Secretary-General, as well as other responsibilities, such as the provision of regular and comprehensive training for civilian, police and military personnel of peacekeeping operations.

53. It is evident that in its early implementation stages the directive has achieved more purposive and coherent mainstreaming of the children and armed conflict agenda in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and as such has enabled the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to more effectively implement relevant Security Council resolutions. The directive is also contributing to more coordinated action by United Nations partners, as it clearly articulates the responsibilities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations vis-à-vis child protection actors such as UNICEF, ensuring a clear division of labour and complementarity of action.

54. The Security Council does not make a distinction between United Nations peacekeeping missions and special political missions in terms of its expectations for the implementation of resolutions on children and armed conflict. That is to say, the priority that the Council has placed on monitoring and reporting, dialogue with parties to conflict, or inclusion of child protection provisions in peace processes and agreements, applies equally to United Nations peacekeeping operations and to special political missions.

55. Therefore, in May 2010, in an effort to bring consistency across all United Nations missions, the Department of Political Affairs transmitted the child protection directive prepared by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to all relevant special political missions. This is seen as an interim measure, pending the Department of Political Affairs internal review of the implications for special political missions of Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict and the institution of a Department of Political Affairs policy. In this regard, it should be noted that the directive is scheduled to be reviewed in June 2011 and it is anticipated that this will present an opportunity for its formal reissuance as a joint policy on child protection of all three Departments. This will be critical to ensure consistent and coherent practice across United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions in the implementation of relevant resolutions.

56. It is also evident that the effective implementation of the directive and consistent follow up of key operational elements of the Security Council resolutions depends on the deployment of the requisite child protection expertise. In recognition of this, the Council has now called for the deployment of child protection advisers to all relevant peacekeeping and political missions. In addition, it should be noted that the General Assembly has also welcomed the deployment and role of child protection advisers, including through Assembly resolution 62/141 on the rights of the child, and through its Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (see A/64/19).

57. To date, child protection advisers have been appointed in nine peacekeeping missions and efforts are under way to ensure that special political missions also deploy child protection advisers as required. Child protection advisers have ensured that reports of the Secretary-General on peacekeeping operations and specific country reports on children and armed conflict have more consistently included reliable and timely information and analysis on children and armed conflict and feedback to Member States on implementation of resolutions.

58. Child protection advisers have also ensured that mission senior management is increasingly engaged on child protection at the highest level. More needs to be done, however, to ensure that the protection of children is understood as an explicit responsibility of the heads of United Nations country presence. In this regard, key child protection responsibilities such as monitoring and reporting violations, dialogue with parties to conflict towards preparation of child protection action plans, and systematic inclusion of child protection provisions in agreements during peace processes should consistently be reflected as overall mission success criteria and performance benchmarks for which special representatives for the Secretary-General and resident coordinators are directly accountable.

59. It is notable that most mandates for United Nations peacekeeping and political missions now include reference to child protection as a mandate priority. This

expression of commitment to protect children in the crafting of mandates has not yet, however, consistently translated into budgeting processes and mission staffing. The role of the General Assembly is critical in this regard, particularly in the context of the work of the Fifth Committee, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

B. Child protection and transition to peacebuilding

60. Another priority and challenge is to ensure that a level of child protection expertise is maintained as peacekeeping operations are drawn down and restructured in transition to peacebuilding configurations. During that phase, it remains critical that the representatives of the Secretary-General retain adequate advisory capacity on child protection within their offices. In particular, child protection advisers will be responsible for ensuring ongoing monitoring and verification of child protection action plans with parties to conflict, as well as maintenance of the cycle of reporting to Member States on implementation of children and armed conflict resolutions and the recommendations of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, which often remain relevant and in effect through the transition to post-conflict peace consolidation and peacebuilding.

61. Member States are urged to ensure that child protection concerns, including support for reintegration efforts and youth employment, are also explicitly reflected in relevant peacebuilding mandates and in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission through its country configurations.

C. Child protection in mediation, peace processes and agreements

62. Experience has shown that long-term sustainability of peace also depends on addressing specific needs of children in peace mediation processes and resultant agreements. Not to do so carries the risk of children ultimately becoming "spoilers" into the future.

63. One of the key challenges is to overturn the inclination, including of many mediators, that broader political considerations and dynamics may be adversely affected or compromised by child protection issues surfacing at negotiating tables. There is often a reticence to consider the protection of children as a "high line" priority on an equal footing with considerations of achieving or maintaining ceasefires, for instance. Yet, such issues as the immediate cessation of grave violations against children and the unconditional release of all children associated with fighting forces should be seen as fundamental to any ceasefire agreement. Continued violations such as child recruitment, or unwillingness to identify and release children already in fighting forces, must be formally stipulated as violations of ceasefire agreements by parties to a conflict.

64. Other specific issues that should be reflected as integral provisions of peace agreements themselves may include terms for child disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, care of internally displaced children, participation of children in transitional justice frameworks, and specific attention and resources for children in recovery and reconstruction phases.

65. In negotiation terms, the universal moral consensus on the protection of children should be viewed as a comparative advantage, a common point of agreement around which parties can be brought to the negotiating table, and a goodwill prerequisite for broader negotiations. It is imperative that children are not made to wait until peace is settled. Parties should be required to make child protection commitments at all stages of peace processes, whether a ceasefire or peace agreement is close or not.

66. It is therefore a matter of practical consideration that the United Nations, as well as regional mediation infrastructures and initiatives, are committed to incorporating child protection perspectives and expertise. Child protection elements should be routinely included in guidance materials for mediators, in mediation training programmes and in development of mediation tools. This includes establishment of modalities for child protection actors to regularly collaborate with mediation support focal points and to brief the mediators themselves.

IV. Campaign on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

67. The 2007 review of the Machel study stated that international standards and their enforcement were the strongest defence against impunity of child rights violations in armed conflict, yet these would only be effective if and when they were widely known, understood and implemented by everyone. In that spirit and on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (25 May 2000), the Office of the Special Representative, in partnership with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, UNICEF and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, launched a two-year campaign promoting the universal ratification of the Optional Protocol by 2012.

68. To date, 132 Member States have ratified the Optional Protocol, 24 have signed but not ratified it and 36 have neither signed nor ratified it. Universal ratification is essential for establishing a universal consensus and strengthening customary law with respect to the issues covered by the Protocol.

69. Activities around the campaign to achieve universal ratification of the Optional Protocol include bilateral meetings with Member States that have not signed or ratified the Protocol, advocacy initiatives in multilateral meetings, technical assistance for translating provisions of the Protocol into national legislation and awareness-raising events. The Office of the Special Representative also encourages specific Governments to take the lead at regional and global levels to help ensure universal ratification by 2012.

V. Recommendations

70. **Recalling the recommendations of the 10-year strategic review of the Machel study, as presented to the General Assembly in the Report of the Special Representative (A/62/228), Member States, United Nations agencies,**

funds and programmes and NGOs are urged to continue to reinforce efforts to ensure timely implementation of the range of protection and programmatic measures outlined in the recommendation.

71. **Member States which have not already done so are encouraged to sign and/or ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflict, to secure universal ratification of the Protocol by 2012. To facilitate the process, Member States with the capacity to do so are encouraged to take the lead at the regional level to advocate for ratification in the context of the regional organizations of which they are members.**

72. **In light of continued grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict, Member States are strongly urged to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators through national judicial processes, including high-ranking officials and members of the armed forces as necessary. Furthermore, at the international level Member States are encouraged to take action against persistent perpetrators through the imposition of sanctions and other targeted measures.**

73. **To address the scourge of sexual violence in conflict, Member States are strongly encouraged to prepare and implement, with the support of the United Nations, comprehensive national strategies on sexual violence that address accountability of perpetrators and programmatic response and services for survivors. Donors are urged to ensure that adequate funding is allocated to such initiatives.**

74. **Given the primacy of protecting children, Member States are urged to facilitate as necessary dialogue with all parties to a conflict for the exclusive purpose of eliciting concrete child protection commitments and action plans to address grave violations. Such dialogue is not intended to prejudge the legal status of non-state parties, nor does it confer legitimacy upon them.**

75. **In view of the disturbing trend of civilian casualties, especially children, during the course of military operations, Member States are urged to ensure that national and multinational forces adopt standard operating procedures to mitigate the direct targeting or collateral death and injury of children. Regional and United Nations peacekeeping missions are also urged to support the development of such procedures. If support is given to national forces by international peacekeeping operations it must be on the condition that those forces have procedures in place for the protection of civilians.**

76. **In the context of the global campaign for education in emergencies and in light of trends related to attacks in conflict situations against educational facilities, teachers and students, Member States, United Nations entities and civil society organizations are encouraged to take all measures necessary to promote and enforce the concept of schools as zones of peace. This should extend to the development of curricula with an emphasis on peace education and fostering cultures of tolerance.**

77. **Member States are urged to continue to include child protection as a priority in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations and political missions, and furthermore to ensure that key child protection**

responsibilities are specified as overall mission success criteria and performance benchmarks for which heads of mission are directly accountable.

78. **The Department of Peacekeeping Operations-Department of Field Support child protection policy directive is critical to ensuring that United Nations peacekeeping operations effectively implement child protection resolutions and other recommendations of Member States and its implementation should be further reinforced. The Department of Field Support is also encouraged to co-sign the directive to ensure consistent guidance to all United Nations peacekeeping operations and relevant special political missions.**

79. **The General Assembly, particularly in the context of the work of the Fifth Committee, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, should continue to support adequate budgetary provision for the deployment of child protection advisors to United Nations peacekeeping and political missions to ensure effective implementation of resolutions and mandates on child protection.**

80. **Member States are urged to ensure that child protection aspects are also explicitly reflected in relevant peacebuilding mandates and in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission through its country configurations, and that adequate provision is made for child protection expertise in peacebuilding missions.**

81. **Taking into account the changing nature of conflict and consequently the diverse experience and circumstances of children associated with armed forces and groups, key stakeholders, including UNICEF, other United Nations actors and child protection NGOs are encouraged to continue to review existing conceptual frameworks and programmes for child rehabilitation and reintegration with a view to rendering such interventions more timely, effective and sustainable.**

82. **Member States, bearing the primary duty and responsibility for addressing internal displacement, should abide by their obligations under international law and adhere to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. This includes as provided for in the rights and guarantees for internally displaced children, safeguarding populations on their territory from arbitrary displacement; provision of protection and assistance to those who have been displaced; and supporting and facilitating voluntary, safe and dignified solutions to displacement, particularly as regards children.**

83. **Member States and relevant United Nations entities are urged to ensure that United Nations-led and regional mediation processes prioritize the protection of children at all stages of peace processes and that ceasefire and peace agreements include specific child protection provisions. Child protection elements should be routinely included in guidance materials for mediators, in mediation training programmes and in development of mediation tools, and modalities should be established for regular briefings and exchange between child protection actors and mediators and mediation support focal points.**

84. **In view of continued concerns regarding the detention of children, Member States are urged to ensure that such measures are in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile**

Justice, and emphasis should be placed on alternatives to institutionalization of children and on non-judicial and restorative processes. Child protection actors should also have access to any children detained by multinational forces.

85. **The Special Representative brings to the attention of Member States the key principles for child protection and participation in transitional justice and the overarching considerations in this regard as outlined in the annex to the present report, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to endorse and implement those principles. The Special Representative supports the call for the development of common minimum standards on children and transitional justice.**

Annex

Principles for child protection and participation in transitional justice[a]

1. The best interests of the child should guide transitional justice processes.

2. Children must be treated with dignity and respect.

3. Transitional justice mechanisms, including in the design and implementation of policies and child-friendly procedures, should ensure the protection of children against violence and promote their physical and psychological well-being.

4. Protection of the identity of the child and the child's privacy must be guaranteed at all times.

5. Children have the right to participate in decisions affecting their lives. The participation of children should be voluntary, with the informed consent of the child and a parent or guardian. The decision not to participate can also be a form of participation.

6. Policies and procedures to protect the rights of children involved in transitional justice processes should include a specific focus on adolescents and should be consistent with the evolving capacities of the child.

7. A gender-sensitive approach to participation in transitional justice processes should include a focus on the protection of the rights of girls and should address their specific needs and experiences.

8. Participation should be non-discriminatory and should include, as appropriate, diverse ethnic, racial, religious and other groups, and take into consideration the specific needs of children with disabilities.

9. Transitional justice processes should facilitate the realization of children's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. A human rights-based approach to transitional justice processes should be holistic and sustainable, addressing the root causes of armed conflict and political violence and strengthening the protective environment for children in their families and communities.

[a] Prepared under the auspices of the United Nations Children's Fund and Harvard Law School, March 2010 (see *Children and Transitional Justice: Truth-Telling, Accountability and Reconciliation*).

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Eradication of poverty and other development issues: industrial development cooperation

Industrial development cooperation

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on industrial development cooperation in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/231.

* A/65/150.

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Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Summary

In the present report, prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 63/231 of 19 December 2008, the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) highlights recent trends in industrial development, particularly in the context of the global financial and economic crisis. Through the introduction and analysis of recent data on the state of world manufacturing production, the report examines the extent to which manufacturing in developing countries has withstood the effects of the crisis. The report further determines how global trends, including the food and fuel price crises, climate change and globalization, continue to impact upon the productive sectors and international trade in manufactures.

The report also examines the role of industrial development in helping to enable these challenges to be met and the Millennium Development Goals to be achieved. The specific and interlinked roles of green industry, access to modern forms of energy, and energy efficiency are also examined in this regard. In addition, this report describes the response of UNIDO, as the specialized agency of the United Nations mandated to promote sustainable industrial development and international industrial cooperation, including the continuing contributions of UNIDO to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Contents

		Page
I.	Industrial development in review	4
	A. Introduction	4
	B. Trends in industrial development	4
	C. Conclusions on recent trends in industrial development	7
II.	Current issues and challenges facing industrial development and international industrial cooperation	8
	A. Introduction	8
	B. Global megatrends and the Millennium Development Goals	8
	1. The food fuel and financial crises	8
	2. Demographic change	9
	3. Gender equality	10
	4. Globalization	10
	5. The illicit economy	11
	6. Climate change, green industry and energy	11
	C. The role of industrial development in enabling the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals	12
III.	The importance of green industry, access to energy, and energy efficiency	13
	A. Introduction	13
	B. Green industry	13
	C. Access to energy and energy efficiency	14
IV.	The response of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization	16
	A. Introduction	16
	1. Partnerships	17
	2. Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)	17
	B. Three thematic priorities	18
	1. Poverty reduction through productive activities	18
	2. Trade capacity-building	20
	3. Environment and energy	21
V.	Conclusions and recommendations	22

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I. Industrial development in review

A. Introduction

1. In the two years that have elapsed since the last report of the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to the General Assembly (see A/63/309), much has changed in the global economic and development landscape. In 2008, robust economic growth, particularly in South and East Asia, evidenced clear progress towards achieving at least some of the Millennium Development Goals. Economic growth, largely driven by the productive sectors, was a major factor in reducing the number of people in developing regions living on less than $1.25 a day, from 1.8 billion in 1990 to 1.4 billion in 2005.[1] However, the global financial and economic crisis, which began in the advanced economies of Northern America and Europe in 2008, as well as crises and related price increases in the food and fuel sectors, has had a negative effect on world economic growth and continues to present a grave challenge to the achievement of the objectives of the global development agenda.

2. The present report, in reviewing recent trends in industrial development through the prism of these developments, examines the extent to which manufacturing in developing countries has withstood the global economic and financial crisis, before determining how other global challenges, including the food and fuel crises, climate change and globalization, continue to impact upon the productive sectors and international trade in manufactures.

3. This report also discusses the role of industrial development in helping to enable the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, examining the specific and interlinked roles of green industry, access to modern forms of energy,[2] and energy efficiency in this regard. In addition, the report describes the response of UNIDO, as the specialized agency of the United Nations system mandated to promote sustainable industrial development and international industrial cooperation, to current challenges.

B. Trends in industrial development[3]

4. World manufacturing output dropped significantly in the period from the onset of the financial and economic crisis to the end of 2009. Quarterly production indices suggest that industrial production growth had begun to slow in the second half of 2008, ultimately resulting in a 6.8 per cent fall in world manufacturing value added (MVA) in 2009 (see figure I). During the same period, the volume of worldwide

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[1] *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.I.7).

[2] Modern sources of energy include fuels such as natural gas, liquid petroleum gas (LPG), and diesel fuels and biofuels such as biodiesel and bioethanol. Advances in technology, as represented, for example, by improved cooking stoves, can also enable cleaner and more efficient delivery of traditional fuels.

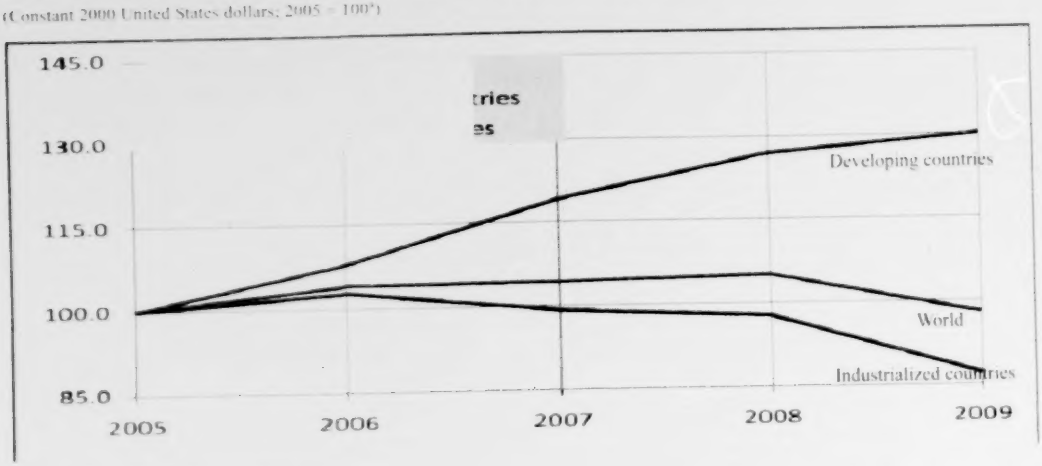
[3] Unless otherwise stated, all data provided in sect. B have been obtained from the *International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics* (Cheltenham, United Kingdom, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2010), with supplementary information obtained from quarterly indices compiled in the UNIDO statistical database.

trade in goods and services fell by 10.7 per cent.[4] The impact of the crisis was especially severe on industrialized countries, where manufacturing output fell by 13 per cent in 2009. In the immediate pre-crisis period, industrial growth rates had already been low in industrialized countries owing to a shift in manufacturing production to a number of developing countries, notably in South and East Asia. Therefore, while the impact of the crisis on industrialized countries is evident, the recent decline in production in these countries cannot be entirely attributed to it. Developing countries, for their part, maintained positive growth throughout 2008 and 2009, but at a markedly slower pace than in recent years.

Figure I

Growth of world manufacturing value added, by country groups, 2005-2009

(Constant 2000 United States dollars; 2005 = 100[a])



Source: UNIDO statistical database.

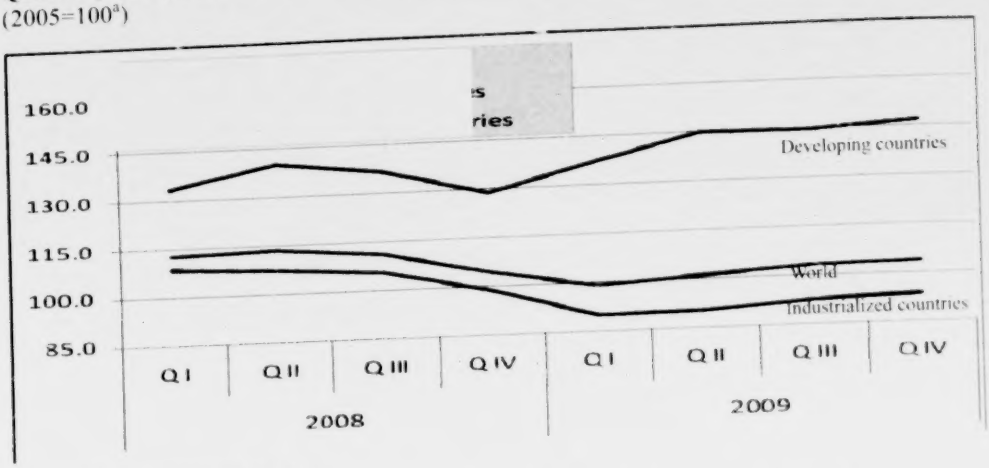
[a] The base year of 2005 refers to average quarterly production (annual production divided proportionally with respect to four quarters).

5. Many countries responded to the crisis with fiscal stimulus measures, including reductions in nominal interest rates, cuts in taxation and increased public spending. As demonstrated in figure II, this response appears to have had a positive effect on industrial production. Estimates based on quarterly indices suggest that world MVA reached its lowest level in the first quarter of 2009 and began to show improvement in the second quarter, led by a surge in industrial production in developing countries.

6. The growth in manufacturing witnessed by developing countries in 2009 was mainly attributed to growth in the largest emerging economies, especially China and India. China's MVA grew by almost 10 per cent in that year, while that of India rose by 5 per cent. Similarly, despite the financial crisis, least developed countries also maintained positive growth in MVA. However, manufacturing output declined in volume in the group of newly industrialized countries.

[4] International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook April 2010: Rebalancing Growth* (Washington, D.C., 2010), table A.9.

Figure II
Quarterly change of world industrial production in 2008-2009
(2005=100[a])



Source: UNIDO statistical database.

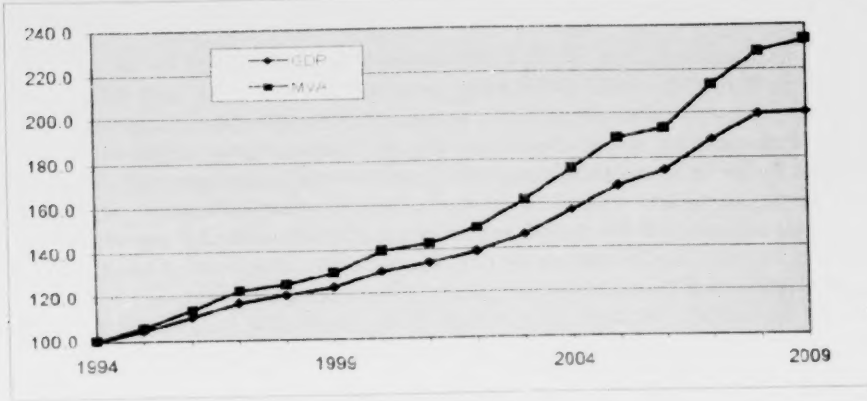
[a] The base year of 2005 refers to average quarterly production (annual production divided proportionally with respect to four quarters).

7. The majority of manufacturing sectors registered a decline over 2008 and 2009. Export-oriented industries and consumer durable sectors suffered most from the decline in global demand resulting from the financial and economic crisis. However, the global food sector did maintain growth during this period. The resilience of the industry may be explained partially by the tendency for staple foods to retain demand, rendering the sector less vulnerable to drops in consumer income. However, much of the growth can be attributed to the increased demand in larger emerging economies for more sophisticated and expensive processed foods, highlighting the importance for developing countries of value addition in this sector.

8. Despite the negative impact of the financial and economic crisis, manufacturing remained a major source of overall economic growth for developing countries (see figure III). In the last 15 years, manufacturing output in these countries grew consistently at a higher pace than that in the rest of the economy. Over this period, the share of MVA in gross domestic product (GDP) in developing countries exceeded 20 per cent, compared with 15 per cent in industrialized countries.

9. This trend has contributed to a significant structural change in the economies of developing countries, as low-value activities have been replaced by modern industrial sectors. Structural change within manufacturing is characterized by an increased share of technology-intensive sectors in total manufacturing output and in the exports of many developing countries. However, this process has been slower in least developed countries, where the combined contribution of the medium- and high-technology sectors remained well below 20 per cent for the last 10 years.

Figure III
Growth trend of GDP and MVA in developing countries 1994-2009
(1994=100)



Source: International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics, 2010.

C. Conclusions on recent trends in industrial development

10. The global financial and economic crisis resulted in a significant challenge for the globalizing world economy. Initial predictions of an increased tendency towards protectionism in trade did not materialize at the levels feared (see sect. II below). Developing countries, many of which had been suffering the effects of rising food and fuel prices, have, as a group, exhibited much resilience. While this is largely accounted for by growth in emerging economies, statistics from least developed countries for which data were available show a considerable degree of stability. Aid flows, on the other hand, were affected much more and for most donors remain well below the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income.[5] Likewise, workers' remittances fell substantially, with remittances to least developed countries having dropped from $36.5 billion in 2007 to $21.25 billion in 2008.[6] The role of the productive sectors in reducing poverty is therefore acutely important to developing countries, and to least developed countries in particular, in terms of ensuring the stability and predictability of poverty reduction.

11. It is clear that recovery in manufacturing activity is fuelling overall global growth, which is forecast to rise to 4.2 per cent in 2010.[7] The extent to which this can be maintained, and the extent to which industrial development can support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, are dependent on how the world tackles a range of interrelated global megatrends, which will be discussed directly below.

[5] Measured in current United States dollars, in 2009, net disbursements of official development assistance (ODA) fell by over 2 per cent compared with 2008 figures. This amounted to $119.6 billion, or 0.31 per cent of the combined gross national income of developed countries (see *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*).

[6] Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (fact sheet, 2009).

[7] *World Economic Outlook*.

II. Current issues and challenges facing industrial development and international industrial cooperation

A. Introduction

12. Global economic and societal development are challenged by an array of converging forces which will affect many areas of human activity, including public institutions, the private sector and civil society, for years to come. Analysis of how these megatrends are taking shape provides us with an insight into the future prospects for global industrial development, wealth creation and poverty reduction. Chief among the megatrends, which can be positive or negative in nature and effect, are climate change and the related emphasis on green growth and green industry, including clean energy solutions for development. That issue will be explored in greater detail in section III below. The present section will examine five other such megatrends, namely, the continuing threat of the food, fuel and financial crises; demographic change; gender equality; globalization; and the illicit economy.

13. This report approaches these megatrends within the context of the specific challenge of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and the role played by industrial development in this connection. The United Nations Millennium Declaration[8] and its associated Goals together represent the most important collective promise made to the world's most vulnerable people, outlining a framework for advancing the well-being, rights, freedom and security of all human beings. At the time of preparation of this report, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in September 2010 was due to review progress towards the achievement of the Goals by 2015 and to agree on an associated agenda for action.

14. While significant advances have been made in some areas and regions, progress has been too slow and uneven in many parts of the world. Many of the global gains achieved have been due to the dramatic and growth-driven fall in poverty in East Asia, whereas sub-Saharan Africa saw an increase of 100 million people in extreme poverty in 2005 compared with 1990.[9] Given that only five years remain within which to realize the commitments embodied in the Millennium Development Goals, the prospect of missing a number of the targets is a stark reality.

B. Global megatrends and the Millennium Development Goals

1. The food, fuel and financial crises

15. Notwithstanding the fact that developing countries have proved relatively resilient with respect to the financial and economic crisis, it is estimated that reduced inflows in foreign direct investment (FDI) and workers' remittances and a resulting slowdown in exports left an additional 50 million people in extreme poverty in 2009. This figure is forecast to rise to 64 million people by the end of 2010, many of whom live in least developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa and

[8] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[9] *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*.

South Asia.[10] Such countries tend not to have diversified economies and often rely on commodity exports, which are subject to great volatility on global markets. Lack of employment opportunities as a result of the economic downturn is further exacerbating the situation. Moreover, the effects of the crisis are likely to persist: poverty rates are foreseen as being slightly higher in 2015, the Millennium Development Goal target year, than they would have been had the crisis not occurred.

16. Food prices surged in the run-up to the economic crisis and, while they have recently dropped, they remain at historically high levels. By mid-2009, agricultural commodity prices were relatively high compared with their low levels experienced during the 1980s and 1990s. Recent estimates suggest that world food prices will again rise over the current decade, with average prices for staples such as wheat and coarse grains set to increase by 15-40 per cent compared with the period from 1997 to 2006.[11] The prices of non-agricultural commodities, such as fuels and metals, are also likely to remain volatile going forward.

17. Oil prices dropped sharply in 2009 before stabilizing by the end of the year at about $80 per barrel, approximately 45 per cent below the high of mid-2008. Given the long-term trend towards a shortage of fossil fuel-derived energy, fuel prices are likely to see a sharp increase in the future, unless steps are taken to invest in other energy sources and to bolster energy efficiency. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity for policymakers and for industry in developing countries. In a no-change scenario, lack of access to fossil-derived energy will stifle development efforts, cause increased poverty and hunger, and raise the risk of civil conflict and insecurity.

18. On the other hand, providing access to modern, often renewable, forms of energy and building strong energy efficiency systems in developing countries will help in overcoming this hurdle and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The adoption of cleaner, resource-efficient and low-carbon patterns of production will contribute to mitigating environmental challenges and the effects of climate change simultaneously. This issue is discussed further in section III.

2. Demographic change

19. Closely related to the issue of energy shortage is that of population growth. The world's population currently stands at 6.8 billion, which this is almost double the figure (3.5 billion) at the beginning of the 1970s. Population growth is forecast to continue at a rapid pace, averaging 1.1 per cent per year to 2019, with 2.2 per cent growth in sub-Saharan Africa.[12]

20. Technological progress, especially in agriculture, has generally been able to keep up with the dramatic increase in the size of human societies: since 1960, food production has increased by a factor of two and a half, and food prices — until recently — had declined.[13] Despite this, efforts to ensure an adequate food supply

[10] World Bank, *World Development Indicators 2010* (Washington, D.C., April 2010).

[11] *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2010-2019* (Paris, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2010).

[12] Ibid.

[13] *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005: Ecosystems and Human Well-being — Biodiversity Synthesis* (Washington, D.C., World Resources Institute, 2005).

for all are being subjected to increasing stress. In addition, it must be recognized that building a future for growing populations goes beyond satisfying the need for food supply alone. A diversified economy offering opportunities in private sector-led productive activities can mitigate the risk of rising unemployment, civil conflict and illegal migration.

3. Gender equality

21. The negative impact of the food, fuel and financial crises on poverty reduction also encompasses gender equality and the empowerment of women, which are preconditions for overcoming poverty, hunger and disease; and progress on Millennium Development Goal 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women) has been slow. Preliminary studies and results indicate that gender inequalities are being perpetuated, particularly in relation to productive and decent employment for women. Although globally, the share of women in paid employment outside the agricultural sector has continued to increase slowly, reaching 41 per cent in 2008, but some regions are seriously lagging behind in providing opportunities for women. In South Asia, North Africa and Western Asia, only 20 per cent of those employed outside agriculture are women. Gender equality in the labour market is also a concern in sub-Saharan Africa, where women hold only 1 in 3 paid jobs outside agriculture.[14]

22. Close to two thirds of all employed women in developing countries work as contributing family workers or as workers on their own account, typically in forms of employment that render them extremely vulnerable and offer no job security or benefits. A balanced agenda for gender equality and empowerment of women must therefore include a focus on the economic empowerment of women, which would entail offering access to resources, land, decent jobs and an active role for women in entrepreneurship.

4. Globalization

23. Globalization and the interconnectedness of world markets have emerged as dominant features of the world economy and this is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future. It is no longer possible to think of a country's economic growth as a purely internal process. Manufacturing has become globally integrated and is shifting in the direction of developing countries at an increasing pace. However, not all developing countries and regions are growing together.

24. Millennium Development Goal 8 (A global partnership for development) contains at its core the aim of developing a trading system that is open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. However, experience has shown that globalization accompanied by market liberalization policies has so far not resulted in sufficiently large benefits for the developing world. True preferential trade status is reserved mainly for least developed countries, 81 per cent of whose imports were admitted free of duty by industrialized countries in 2008.[15] This advancement of preferential treatment, largely on a unilateral basis, is not an adequate substitute for the conclusion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the implementation of its related development agenda. Even as tariffs fall away,

[14] *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*.

[15] Ibid.

technical barriers to trade remain; consequently, developing countries will need to focus on developing strong supply capacities and fulfilling international conformity and standards requirements.

5. The illicit economy

25. A closely related trend is growth in the worldwide illicit economy. While only gross estimates of the volumes of illicit trade are available, persuasive sources suggest that the global illicit economy is growing at a considerably faster pace than that of the legitimate economy.[16] As globalization has developed, there has been a corresponding increase in low-cost communication, transportation and travel, which together create favourable conditions for both legitimate and illicit forms of international economic activity.

26. The rise in maritime piracy off the coasts of certain developing regions is one example of growth in the illicit economy which threatens world trade and security; yet, this phenomenon appears to have caught the international community by surprise.[17] Other well-documented examples in this regard include trafficking in people, drugs and weaponry, transnational money-laundering and the plundering of natural resources. Although it is sometimes seen mainly from a security or crime perspective, in fact the illicit economy thrives in particular where opportunities for legitimate livelihoods do not exist or are undersupported. Indeed, the existence and growth of the illicit economy are both a symptom and a cause of poverty and underdevelopment. Nurturing legitimate forms of economic activity and globalization, through, inter alia, encouraging participation in the productive sectors and international trade, must become a central part of strategies to combat growth in the illicit economy.

6. Climate change, green industry and energy

27. Climate change is a major threat to the poor and underscores the need to develop clean energy sources and safeguard the environment, as outlined in Millennium Development Goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability). The present trends in consumption and population growth are subjecting the planet's natural systems to a significant strain. Global carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions have continued their upward trend in recent years, having totalled 30 billion metric tons by the end of 2007. This represents a 35 per cent increase above the 1990 level. Per capita emissions remain highest in developed countries — about 12 metric tons of CO_2 per person compared with about 3 metric tons in the developing regions and 0.9 metric tons in sub-Saharan Africa.[18] The most severe impact of climate change is being felt by vulnerable populations which have contributed least to the problem. The risk of death or disability and economic loss due to natural disasters is increasing globally and is concentrated in poorer countries owing to their lack of capacity to deal with the resulting effects on, for example, agricultural output, labour productivity, health and internal displacement.

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[16] Moisés Naim, in *Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers, and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy* (New York, Anchor Books, 2005), quotes a source that estimates that the illicit economy represents 10 per cent of the global economy and is growing seven times faster than legal trade.

[17] See Helmut Tuerk, "The resurgence of piracy: a phenomenon of modern times", *University of Miami International and Comparative Law Review*, vol. 17, issue 1 (2009).

[18] *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*.

28. Section III describes the centrality of industry in the response to the threat of climate change, and examines how a low-carbon and energy-efficient approach to industrial development can provide opportunities to developing countries and help build resilience against future crises.

C. The role of industrial development in enabling the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

29. Despite the negative impact of many of the megatrends discussed above, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals remains feasible through adequate commitment, policies, resources and effort. Moreover, at least some of these megatrends — in particular the growth of green industry in response to the threat of climate change — present clear opportunities for developing countries to ensure inclusive growth and sustainable development. Focused attention should therefore be concentrated on the role of the productive sectors in creating the conditions necessary for the sustainable achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

30. Industry is the seedbed for entrepreneurship, business investment, technological progress, the upgrading of human skills and employment creation. The key role for industrial development in enabling the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is in generating the sustainable employment and higher incomes needed to lift people out of poverty. Through intersectoral linkages, industrial development can also help create the foundation for a more effective and efficient agricultural sector and a flourishing tertiary sector. All of these developments would contribute to improvements in productivity and pro-poor growth, resulting in better living standards. Indeed, this finding is based on historical precedent: no country has made progress in development without increasing the share of the manufacturing sector in its economy. Achieving structural change in favour of these sectors has been the only proved means of moving large numbers of people out of poverty in the last half century. The success stories of East Asia show how properly formulated and implemented industrial strategies can transform economies and societies for the better.

31. In the present economic climate, the importance of trade and sustainable productive activities is put into sharp focus. Developing-country Governments cannot continue to rely on official development assistance (ODA) and concessionary financing in order to achieve social and economic development. They must play a key role in their own developmental processes by supporting industrialization, increased energy access for productive use, higher value added agriculture and services, and improvement in technological and human capabilities.

32. Advancing sustained green and equitable growth and employment will require joint action by many actors, in both the public and private sectors, as well as partnerships across national and regional boundaries. Investment in productive capacities and clean energy for sustainable growth, decent jobs, income-generation, and the economic and political empowerment of women will in turn facilitate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in a cross-cutting and holistic manner.

III. The importance of green industry, access to energy, and energy efficiency

A. Introduction

33. The fundamental challenge for industry is how to decouple the consumption of natural resources and the release of greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth, mitigating the negative effects of climate change and pollution. Through its green industry initiative, UNIDO aims to promote resource-efficient and cleaner production, renewable energy for industrial applications, water and waste management, and other, related improvements. In addition to the environmental benefits, such an approach increases the productivity of industry, encourages the creation of new and higher-value industries, allows greater access to global markets and ultimately reduces poverty by creating economic growth and employment in sectors that support environmental improvements and resource efficiency. Section B explores how developing countries can place themselves at the forefront of this new wave of industrialization.

34. Access to clean and modern sources of energy is key to successfully ensuring environmental protection, to greening industry and, indeed, to achieving all developmental objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. Profound changes are now evident in the way energy services are supplied, transformed, delivered and used. Section C describes new proposals emanating from the United Nations system, as well as from key representatives from the private sector and research institutions, that are aimed at improving access to affordable clean energy and strengthening energy efficiency.

B. Green industry

35. While the climate and environmental crises have their roots in the early industrialization of the developed world, many developed countries have begun to take significant steps to slow down, if not reverse, the trend towards unsustainability. Progress in this direction has been slower in developing countries, however, where less modern and less efficient technologies and operating practices result in higher levels of material and energy consumption than should be required by their production processes. This places developing countries at a considerable disadvantage. First, their patterns of production and consumption are not only environmentally unsustainable but also uncompetitive. Global competition increasingly calls for coupling the most efficient production and lowest costs with adherence to emerging international norms and standards in environmentally sustainable production, whether voluntary or mandatory.

36. With the advent of globalized manufacturing, developing countries are increasingly pressed by investors, importers and Governments in the industrialized world to introduce remedial measures, including the adoption of less-polluting technologies. In pursuit of these objectives, and following the launch of the Green Industry Initiative at the International Conference on Green Industry in Asia, held in Manila in September 2009, UNIDO has identified three particular areas of action in which Governments can bridge gaps so as to ensure the growth of green industry.

37. The first of these areas of action encompasses addressing gaps in a country's normative framework, which entails creating effective policies, incentives and infrastructure through which to promote the greening of industry. Specific examples of such policies, whose implementation would depend on the circumstances of individual countries, could include the establishment of necessary normative frameworks for science and technology designed to encourage green innovation, and the removal of subsidies on the consumption of material and energy inputs in industrial processes.

38. The second area of action entails addressing gaps in the support system for enterprises and entrepreneurs, and providing input into emerging efforts to establish norms at the global level. Actions open to Governments in this regard include: making entrepreneurs aware of the opportunities that exist for new environmentally sustainable industry; working with entrepreneurs to build up the technical and commercial skills necessary for taking advantage of these new opportunities, including training in adherence to international standards; and, where appropriate, establishing support institutions such as accreditation bodies and research facilities. At the global level, UNIDO can work with Governments to ensure that the specific conditions of industrial sectors in developing countries are taken into account in the elaboration of new environmental standards.

39. The need to address gaps in knowledge and skills is encompassed by the third area in which suggested action might be prioritized. Incorporating the greening of industry into relevant curriculums at schools, universities and other learning institutes would help cement a broad understanding of the issues. The learning process could also go beyond schooling and tertiary education and target the building of capacities in Government ministries and agencies as well as enterprises, through the productive sectors, including with respect to the development of public-private partnerships in the environmental field.

C. Access to energy and energy efficiency

40. While the availability of clean, efficient, reliable and affordable energy services is indispensable for global prosperity as a whole, it is especially indispensable for developing countries. Poorer countries must expand access to reliable and modern sources of energy if they are to reduce poverty and improve the health of their citizens, and at the same time increase productivity, enhance competitiveness and promote economic growth. Current energy systems are inadequate for meeting the needs of the world's poor and are making more difficult the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Approximately 3 billion people worldwide rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating.[19] Up to 1 billion more have access only to unreliable electricity networks. These people suffer the health consequences of inefficient combustion of solid fuels in inadequately ventilated buildings, as well as the economic consequences of living

[19] See World Health Organization and United Nations Development Programme, in "The energy access situation in developing countries: a review focusing on least developed countries" (New York, United Nations Development Programme, 2009), where it is estimated that over 3 billion people lack access to modern fuels for cooking and heating, while the International Energy Agency estimates this figure at 2.5 billion.

with insufficient power for productive income-generating activities, and for basic services such as health and education.

41. A well-performing energy system that improves efficient access to modern sources of energy would strengthen the opportunities for the poorest people on the planet to escape the worst effects of poverty. Such a system is also essential for meeting wider development objectives. Economic growth goes hand in hand with increased access to modern energy services, especially in low- and middle-income countries transitioning through the phase of accelerated industrial development. The World Bank estimates that countries with underperforming energy systems may lose up to 2 per cent of economic growth annually as a result of electric power outages, over-investment in backup energy generators, energy subsidies and losses, and inefficient use of scarce energy resources.[20]

42. Progress in achieving industrial energy efficiency is in the interest of both developed and developing countries, and is an issue on which international consensus should be achieved. Industrial energy efficiency provides three fundamental dividends: (a) an environmental dividend, as it helps to reduce CO_2 emissions and thus to combat climate change, (b) a developmental dividend, because it saves energy and resources which can be distributed among the poor and (c) an economic dividend, as it is generally profitable to invest in energy-efficient processes.

43. The main challenges to achieving industrial energy efficiency in developing countries arise at the microlevel from lack of adequate information, unexpected costs associated with the introduction of new technologies, and limited access to capital for investment. At the macrolevel, the challenges include inadequate policy frameworks, unreliable energy supply, and lack of institutional capacity for industrial energy efficiency. Only through integrated public policies designed to promote industrial energy efficiency will developing countries be able to reduce industrial energy consumption and benefit from improved climate, reduced poverty and sustainable development.

44. Within this context, and building on the work of UN-Energy, the United Nations system inter-agency mechanism for coordination on energy issues, the Secretary-General of the United Nations convened an Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC) to address the twin challenges of meeting the world's energy needs for development and contributing to a reduction in greenhouse gases. The Advisory Group, which like UN-Energy is chaired by the Director-General of UNIDO, is a multi-stakeholder partnership bringing together the entities of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, and the private sector and research institutions.[21]

45. In its 2010 report entitled, "Energy for a sustainable future", the Advisory Group called for commitment on two goals: universal access to modern energy services by 2030, and a reduction in global energy intensity by 40 per cent by the same year; and concluded that achievement of these complementary goals would contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, improve the quality and sustainability of macroeconomic growth, and help to reduce carbon emissions over

[20] Orvika Rosnes and Haakon Vennemo, "Costing power infrastructure investment needs in Southern and Eastern Africa", background paper, No. 5 (World Bank, 2009).

[21] UNIDO, *Industrial Development Report* (forthcoming).

the next 20 years. The Group also maintains that the goals, while ambitious, are achievable, partly because of technology innovations and emerging business models, and also because of a shift in international funding priorities in favour of clean energy. The Advisory Group report also points to precedents for achievement of both the widespread provision of energy access (citing China, Brazil and Viet Nam) and rapid improvements in energy efficiency (for example, in China, Denmark, Japan and Sweden).

46. In order to reach the energy goals, the Advisory Group suggests a number of actions to be taken, including the launch of a global campaign in support of energy for sustainable development; the prioritization of the energy goals through the adoption of appropriate national standards; the provision of appropriate financing through financial support mechanisms and a significant increase in bilateral and multilateral international finance;[22] and the encouragement of private sector participation in achieving the goals. It also recommends that the United Nations system make energy for sustainable development a major institutional priority.

47. In keeping with the findings of the Advisory Group report, the forthcoming UNIDO *Industrial Development Report* will focus on the environmental, developmental and economic impact of industrial energy efficiency, including the challenges faced by developing countries in achieving positive outcomes in terms of climate change, natural resource utilization, poverty reduction and corporate profitability. The *report* will also recommend necessary Government policies for improving energy use by industrial firms in developing countries.

IV. The response of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

A. Introduction

48. UNIDO is mandated to advance sustainable private sector-led industrial development and to promote international industrial cooperation. For a number of years, and in order to ensure a focused, effective and efficient approach to its activities, the Organization has concentrated on three closely related thematic priorities: poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity-building, and environment and energy. In its recently elaborated mission statement, UNIDO continues to underline its commitment to these priorities by emphasizing its aspirations with respect to supporting member States in fostering a flourishing productive sector, increasing their participation in international trade and safeguarding their environment. The new mission statement is an integral part of a change management process, which aims at achieving continuous growth and improving the quality of services provided to member States at global, regional and country levels, enhancing the results orientation of such services and further improving organizational efficiency.

[22] The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that, for universal access to modern energy services for basic needs alone, $35 billion per year will be required between now and 2030. For the energy efficiency goal, the Advisory Group estimates that, on average, from $30 billion to $35 billion will be required for low-income countries and from $140 billion to $170 billion for middle-income countries, annually until 2030.

1. Partnerships

49. Partnership is a key element of the approach of UNIDO to development. UNIDO works closely with a range of relevant actors within the United Nations system, international financial institutions and the wider multilateral development system, as well as with bilateral partners, the private sector, academia and civil society. UNIDO is an active participant in relevant United Nations system-wide initiatives and coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and country levels, and seeks to advance the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of the United Nations development system in assisting countries in reaching their development goals. Close partnerships have been developed globally, regionally and at the country level — especially in the context of collaboration within United Nations country teams — with sister organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

50. UNIDO has long recognized the potential of partnering with the private sector to promote development. Partnerships between UNIDO and key actors in the private sector have enhanced its impact in areas such as youth entrepreneurship development and improvements in product quality and safety for small producers in developing countries. In addition, as a core participant in the United Nations Global Compact, UNIDO partners with the private sector to promote corporate social responsibility as a means to increase productivity and competitiveness of developing economies.

51. South-South cooperation reaps the benefits of partnership between developing countries. UNIDO encourages economic and technical cooperation among developing countries through its technical cooperation and other activities. An increasing number of technical cooperation inputs and resources emanate from developing countries, particularly in the areas of agro-business, renewable energy and trade capacity-building. In addition, UNIDO has established two Centres for South-South Industrial Cooperation, in India and China, respectively, with additional centres expected to open shortly in other regions.

2. Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

52. A further example of partnership is provided by UNIDO support for the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/57/304, annex). UNIDO provides concrete and tangible support to the development aims of the African Union and NEPAD through its technical cooperation activities, as well as through the convening of major global and regional conferences, promotion of industrial knowledge and technology transfer, and encouragement of South-South cooperation.

53. For example, a multi-stakeholder programme for productive and decent work is being implemented in the Mano River Union countries of Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire. Together with the African Union, UNIDO organized a number of conferences and expert group meetings of particular relevance to Africa, including an international conference on biofuels in Addis Ababa in February 2008; a major conference on renewable energy in Dakar in April 2008; and a High-level

Conference on Development of Agribusiness and Agro-industries in Africa, held together with the African Union and other partners in Abuja in March 2010.

54. In terms of normative support for NEPAD, UNIDO has been supporting the African Union in the elaboration of its Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA). In 2009, a financing and resource mobilization strategy for the Action Plan was prepared, outlining a comprehensive approach to the mobilization of both financial and non-financial resources. The Action Plan was presented to the relevant organs of the African Union, including the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI), in December 2009. UNIDO has also committed to supporting the establishment of an implementation coordination unit for the Action Plan, and is consulting with members of the Industry, Trade and Market Access (ITMA) Cluster under NEPAD with a view to developing collaborative activities aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the unit.

B. Three thematic priorities

55. The Constitution of UNIDO provides for the Organization to undertake four mutually reinforcing functions in furtherance of its mandate: a technical cooperation function, a convening or global forum function, a normative function and an analytical and advisory function. UNIDO values each of these functions and exercises them, where appropriate, in support of its thematic priorities. The present section examines a selection of recent and current activities, reflecting the three thematic priorities, that take into account the four constitutional functions.

1. Poverty reduction through productive activities

56. Overcoming poverty is the ultimate aim of the various development-oriented organizations within the United Nations system, which have distinct yet complementary mandates. UNIDO concentrates on empowerment of the poor through productive activities and provides support to developing countries in growing their industries, and in private sector and entrepreneurship development, focusing in this regard on the small and medium-sized enterprise sector in particular. It promotes technology transfer and investment, and focuses on specific areas of concern, including the participation of women in productive activities, the enhancement of agro-industrial capacities and the promotion of South-South cooperation.

57. The applied research and analysis conducted by UNIDO has a direct bearing on the design and development of successful poverty reduction strategies and policies. In 2009, UNIDO published *Industrial Development Report 2009: Breaking In and Moving Up — New Industrial Challenges for the Bottom Billion and the Middle-income Countries*.[23] The report analysed the opportunities and constraints with which least developed and middle-income countries were presented in respect of participating in international markets for manufactured goods and moving up to the level of more sophisticated manufacturing, and set out a number of policy responses designed to enable countries to arrive at their own solutions for successfully tackling poverty.

[23] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.II.B.37.

58. UNIDO supports least developed countries through specific technical cooperation activities as well as by facilitating regular Conferences of Ministers of Trade and Industry from the least developed countries, in which those countries can shape a common agenda for tackling shared difficulties related to growth of the productive sectors and promoting economic diversification. The most recent of those Conferences, hosted by UNIDO, was held in December 2009, and examined the effects of the global financial and economic crisis on least developed countries. It also provided input into the elaboration of the programme of action to be adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Istanbul in 2011. The 2009 Conference of Ministers of Trade and Industry adopted the 2009 Least Developed Countries Ministerial Plan of Action,[24] of which the UNIDO General Conference took note at its thirteenth session on 11 December 2009. In support of the Plan of Action, UNIDO is currently undertaking groundbreaking research on the determinants and drivers of economic diversification among least developed countries. The results of this research will be presented by UNIDO at the Fourth United Nations Conference for the Least Developed Countries.

59. Foreign direct investment (FDI) serves as a major catalyst for economic growth, development and poverty reduction. UNIDO strives to support developing countries in their efforts to maximize the benefits of such investment flows. The UNIDO Regional Programme on Investment Promotion, launched in October 2008 at the fourth meeting of the African Investment Promotion Agency Network (AfrIPANet), encompasses the elements necessary for assisting countries in shifting emphasis from the quantity to the quality of FDI flows and promoting domestic investment for competitive growth. Another important dimension of the support provided by UNIDO is its Subcontracting and Partnership exchange (SPX) programme, under which local SPX centres are being established within host institutions such as chambers of commerce. The responsibility of each SPX centre is to interact with large transnational businesses so as to capture their procurement needs and plans, and to benchmark the performance and capabilities of domestic enterprises.

60. The agro-industrial sector represents a key growth area for the economies of least developed countries, helping to build resilience against price fluctuations in primary commodities and providing a solid base for a stronger and more diversified economy. In its technical cooperation services, UNIDO approaches agro-industry from a number of interrelated standpoints, and has seen an increase of approximately 60 per cent in the number of its agricultural projects since 2006. Increased financial resources for such services have been secured through the agreement of member States at the thirteenth session of the General Conference to establish a special trust fund for increased food security through agribusiness and agro-industry promotion.

61. The UNIDO African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative (3ADI) focuses on how to make Africa's largely resource-based economies more dynamic and diversified through increasing local processing of natural resources and adding value to them so that African enterprises can participate in global value chains. The Initiative also seeks to assist in improving the quality and safety of foods by establishing certification and traceability systems as well as harmonization

[24] See document GC.13/INF.4, GC.13/Res.5, annex.

of standards. In addition, it aims to support the achievement of increased food security by reducing post-harvest losses and extending the shelf life of food. UNIDO will also expand this approach to other regions, while adapting it to specific needs and circumstances, as appropriate. The establishment of a Traceability Centre for Agro-Industrial Exports (ETRACE) in Egypt is a model which can be readily applied elsewhere.[25]

62. UNIDO utilizes its convening role to garner support for agro-industries and to provide opportunities for Government representatives, members of the food industry, civil society and development experts to discuss the contribution of the sector to economic development. The April 2008 Global Agro-Industries Forum, hosted by the Government of India and organized by UNIDO in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), examined the key factors affecting competitiveness and the areas for potential action to foster the development of agro-industries. In November 2008, UNIDO convened an International Conference on Sharing Innovative Agri-business Solutions in Cairo, in close cooperation with the Government of Egypt. The Conference was designed to provide an opportunity for matchmaking between those seeking to achieve sustainable agribusiness development and those with innovative solutions. It also examined financing options for development assistance and investment. Building on these meetings, a High-level Conference on Development of Agribusiness and Agro-industries in Africa was held in Abuja in March 2010. In the Conference Outcome, the Abuja Declaration on Development of Agribusiness and Agro-industries in Africa, African Heads of State and Government of the African Union endorsed the African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative.

2. Trade capacity-building

63. UNIDO recognizes the pivotal role played by trade as an engine for growth, allowing developing countries to participate in global markets, and thus helping to secure their future economic growth and reduce poverty. UNIDO has the largest portfolio of trade-related capacity-building projects in the United Nations system, and is an implementing partner in both the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) initiative and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).

64. As noted in section II above, globalization provides opportunities for developing countries. However, and especially in the absence of a conclusion to the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the attempts of many countries to reap the full benefits of global trade are thwarted by a lack of competitive supply capacity and an inadequate quality infrastructure capable of responding to market requirements.

65. In response to these needs, UNIDO offers a range of programmes designed specifically to support the efforts made by developing countries to encourage enterprise upgrading and competitiveness, and to improve quality and conformity infrastructure. Support of the latter includes assisting national authorities in the development and harmonization of standards, and improvements in testing and metrology. Recently, for example, through the assistance provided by the UNIDO Bangladesh Quality Support Programme, the Bangladesh National Metrology Institute was successful in respect of having its application approved for

[25] Further information on ETRACE is available at http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=723.

accreditation for mass and temperature parameters. The Programme's support to exporters in the fisheries sector also led to the adoption of traceability systems. Along the same lines, a joint UNIDO-World Trade Organization project in Zambia aims to establish a credible conformity assessment infrastructure encompassing accreditation in relevant areas, and thereby ease the country's entry to international markets. Further UNIDO initiatives in trade capacity-building aim to promote the establishment of export consortia and corporate social responsibility.

66. UNIDO works closely with other organizations in the area of trade capacity-building. One mechanism for cooperation is the Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), with which UNIDO is undertaking joint projects within the framework of the Delivering as One initiative in several countries, including Cape Verde, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. Under the auspices of the Cluster, UNIDO recently prepared an updated version of "Trade Capacity-Building: Inter-Agency Resource Guide", which was first published in 2008. The new edition describes the services and programmes of 25 United Nations system organizations, and provides information on the trade activities of 5 regional development banks, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and some bilateral partners. Services and programmes are systematically described in 10 categories, enabling users to tap the competence of each participating development partner.

3. Environment and energy

67. Section III above examined the importance to development of decoupling environmental degradation from production and providing access to clean, affordable and reliable modern sources of energy and described the activities undertaken by UNIDO in the context of its Green Industry Initiative, as well as its activities in support of energy access and energy efficiency, in the context of its chairing role in UN-Energy and the Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change, including the preparation of the forthcoming *Industrial Development Report 2010* on industrial energy efficiency.

68. Complementing these activities, the UNIDO Montreal Protocol programme has assisted developing countries in meeting their compliance targets for the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances since 1992. In recent years, the focus has been on the elimination of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which has contributed strongly to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability). The proved track record of UNIDO in respect of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer[26] is complemented by its ability to innovate and to tackle new challenges; and in fact UNIDO has consistently ranked as the best performer among all the implementing agencies, according to the annual performance evaluation conducted by the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (MLF). UNIDO is also active in support of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,[27] with many projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

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[26] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1522, No. 26369.

[27] Ibid., vol. 2256, No. 40214.

69. Building on its collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in establishing National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), UNIDO is now establishing a network of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECPs) centres as support institutions for industry, with a view to helping enterprises to adopt cleaner production techniques and technologies, and allowing them to reduce waste and pollution and cut energy and water consumption in a cost-effective manner.

70. A number of major conferences on energy — including the May 2008 Global Renewable Energy Forum, held in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, and the Vienna Energy Conference and Global Renewable Energy Forum (Léon, Mexico), both held in 2009 — have been convened by UNIDO in order to bring together policymakers, and private sector and civil society representatives for the purpose of discussing energy issues and identifying courses of action that could pave the way to a more sustainable, low-carbon future.

71. In respect of technical cooperation in the field of energy, UNIDO has developed services supporting access to rural energy for productive use, with an emphasis on renewable energy (including solar, wind, small-hydro and geothermal energy) and energy efficiency. Examples of specific demonstration projects that are capable of being replicated and scaled up include the establishment, on a remote and disaster-stricken island in Indonesia, of a mini-grid supplied by a small hydropower plant to promote productive uses, as well as a project in Kenya designed to promote solar energy, biomass, wind and biogas, which added a significant supply to the national grid.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

72. **Statistics compiled by UNIDO lead to the conclusion that world manufacturing has been strongly affected by the economic and financial crisis, but that developing countries as a group have continued along the path of growth. China and India are among those countries that have accounted most for this growth, with the broader group of newly industrialized countries proving less resilient with respect to the crisis.**

73. **Trends in industrial development also show that growth in the productive sectors is providing the main impetus for growth in the wider economy, and for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. However, success in achieving growth, reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals will depend on how developing countries and the international community react to an array of interrelated global megatrends, including the persistence of the food, fuel and financial crises; demographic change; gender equality; globalization; the illicit economy; climate change; and the emergence of green industry.**

74. **Green industry provides developing countries with opportunities to decouple the consumption of materials, water and energy from economic growth; at the same time, it can help reduce poverty by increasing productivity, promoting the founding of new industries and the provision of greater access to global markets, and creating new employment opportunities that support environmental improvements and resource efficiency.**

75. Access to modern forms of energy and improvements in energy efficiency are in the interest of both developed and developing countries and are essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. International consensus should be achieved on delivering the goals elaborated by the Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change, namely, the attainment of universal access to modern, affordable and reliable energy by 2030, and an increase in energy efficiency by 40 per cent by the same year.

76. The multilateral development system, including the international financial institutions and the United Nations system, must work to ensure that developing countries meet internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, inter alia, through the effective deployment of their convening power to promote international cooperation and partnerships, their capacity to generate norms and standards, and the knowledge and expertise that enable them to provide objective advice to stakeholders.

77. UNIDO should continue to work in partnership with other relevant actors to promote sustainable industrial development within the context of its three thematic priorities of poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity-building, and environment and energy, and should also continue to take action to further enhance the range and developmental impact of services provided to member States at global, regional and country levels.

78. UNIDO should further strengthen its activities under its technical cooperation, convening, normative, and advisory and analytical functions in order to provide the highest level of support to developing countries in the sustainable reduction of poverty through building human and institutional capacities, enhancing international competitiveness, promoting investment and technology transfer, encouraging entrepreneurship development (especially for small and medium-sized enterprises), developing the agro-industrial sector, securing access to energy and industrial energy efficiency, promoting green industry, and combating climate change.